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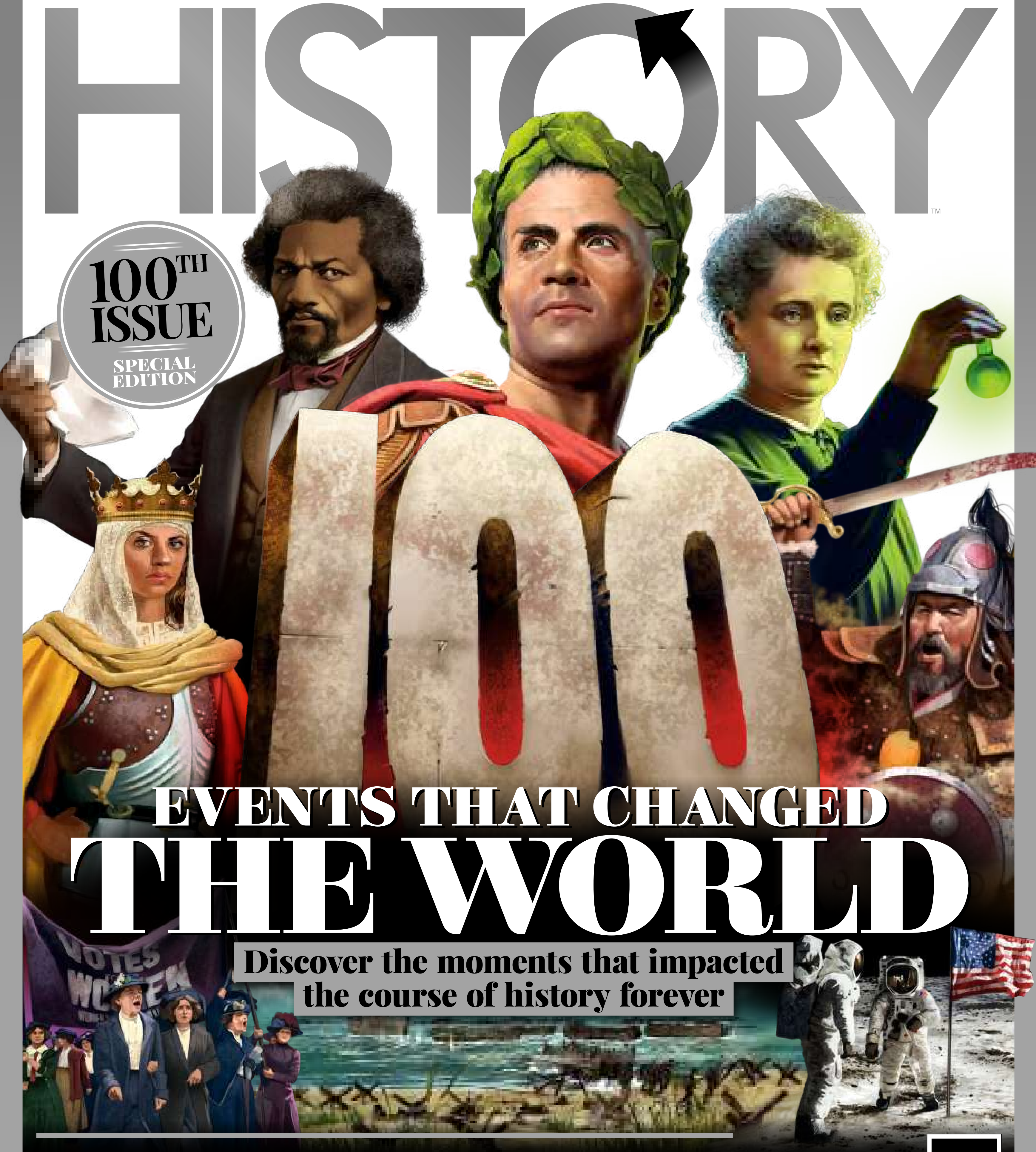

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SPECIAL EDITION

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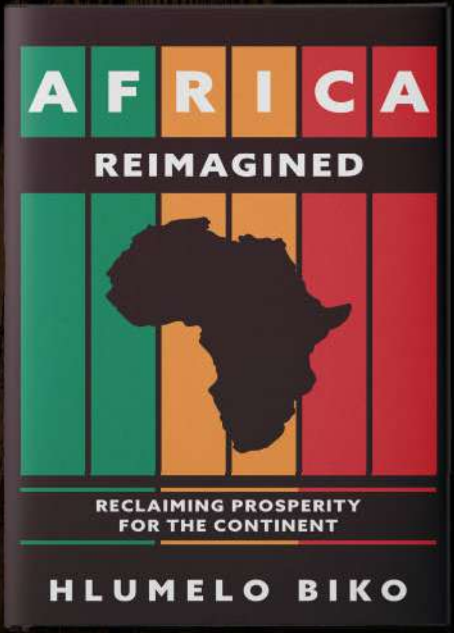
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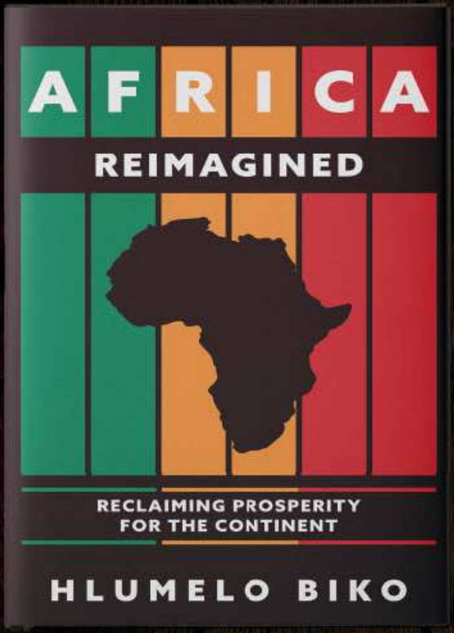
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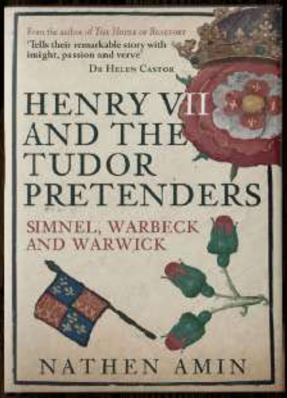
HENRY VII AND THE TUDOR PRETENDERS
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### HENRY VII AND THE TUDOR PRETENDERS

SIMNEL, WARBECK, AND WARWICK

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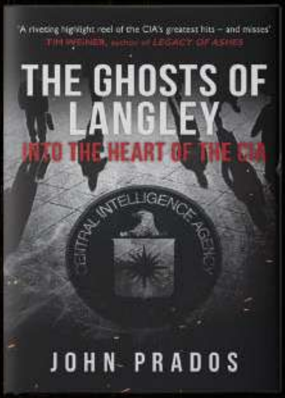
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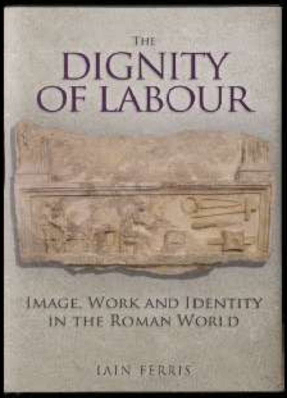
THE DIGNITY OF LABOUR
IMAGE, WORK AND IDENTITY IN THE ROMAN WORLD
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HOW AMERICA CHOOSES ITS PRESIDENTS
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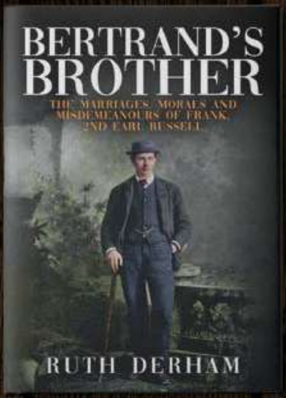
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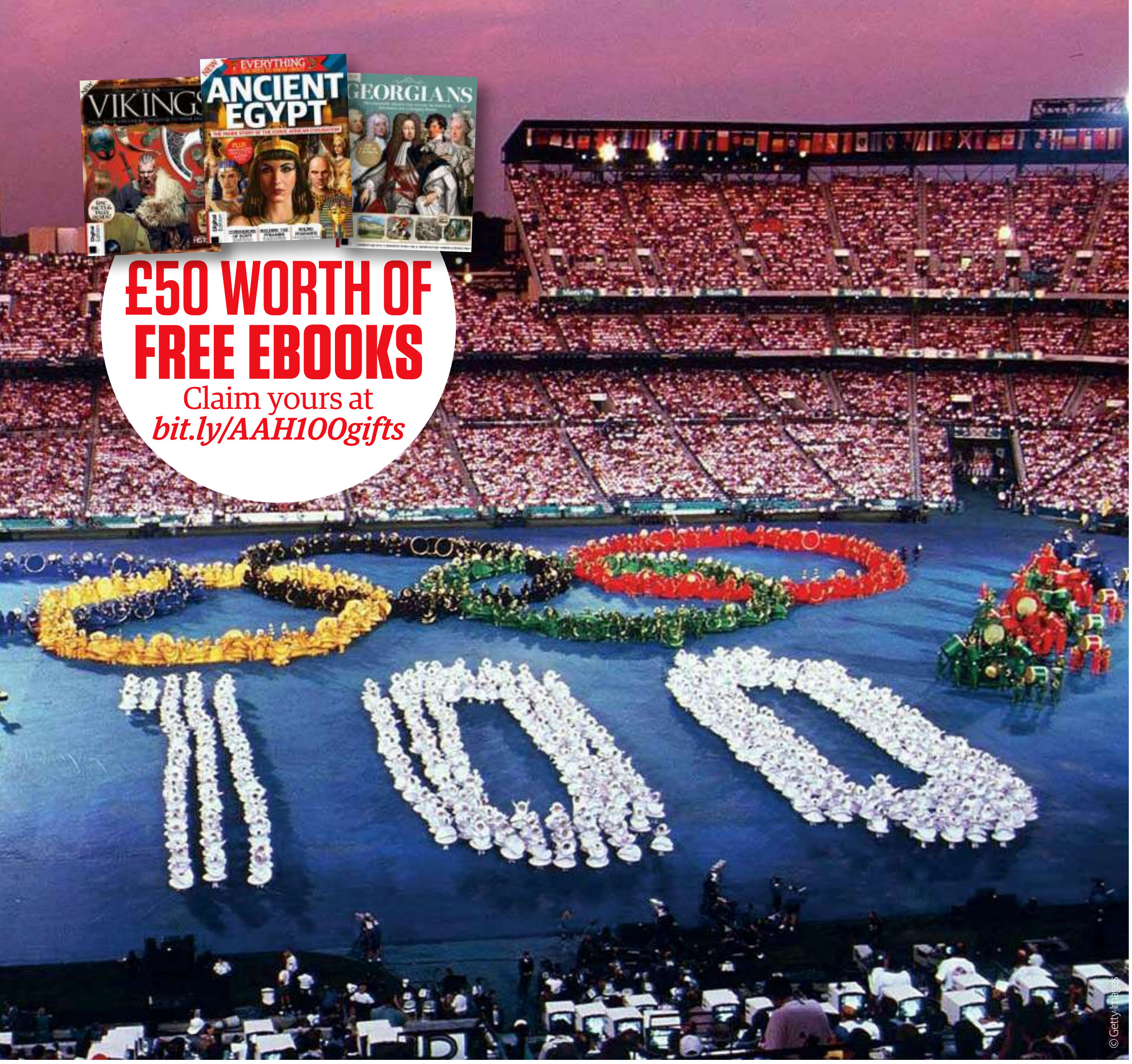

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Atlanta, Georgia marks the Centennial Olympic Games in 1996

# Welcome

I can't begin to express how honoured and delighted I am to present **All About History** issue 100 to you. This issue has been many months in the planning, taken a great deal of back and forth on the team, and was put together mostly at the close of a challenging year. But we did it and I hope you enjoy what we have to offer.

Leading things is, of course, our *100 Events That Changed The World* list. This is our homage to issue 1 of the magazine as well as a moment to reflect and reset. How do you judge the world-changing nature of an event? Does distance from it matter? Does the locality of its impact matter? We tried to pick through all of these factors as we trimmed our options down to the 100 we present here, and hopefully we honoured the intent of the original. You can actually download and read issue 1 again too. Use the download link above to get yours now.

Reaching a milestone like this is a big moment for any magazine, but such things aren't possible without the incredible work of the team that puts it together or, much more importantly, a loyal base of readers to enjoy it. So thanks to everyone who has helped put together the last 100 issues of **All About History,** to my team for their continued hard work and dedication, and my very deepest gratitude to you for reading and supporting us through the years. Here's to the next 100 issues. Cheers.

**Jonathan Gordon**
Editor

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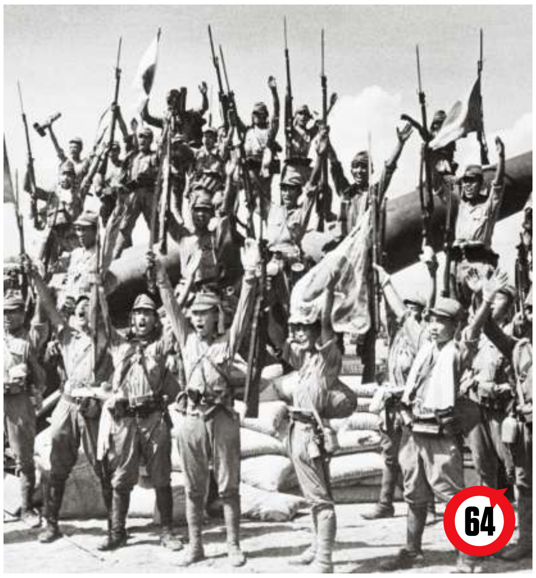

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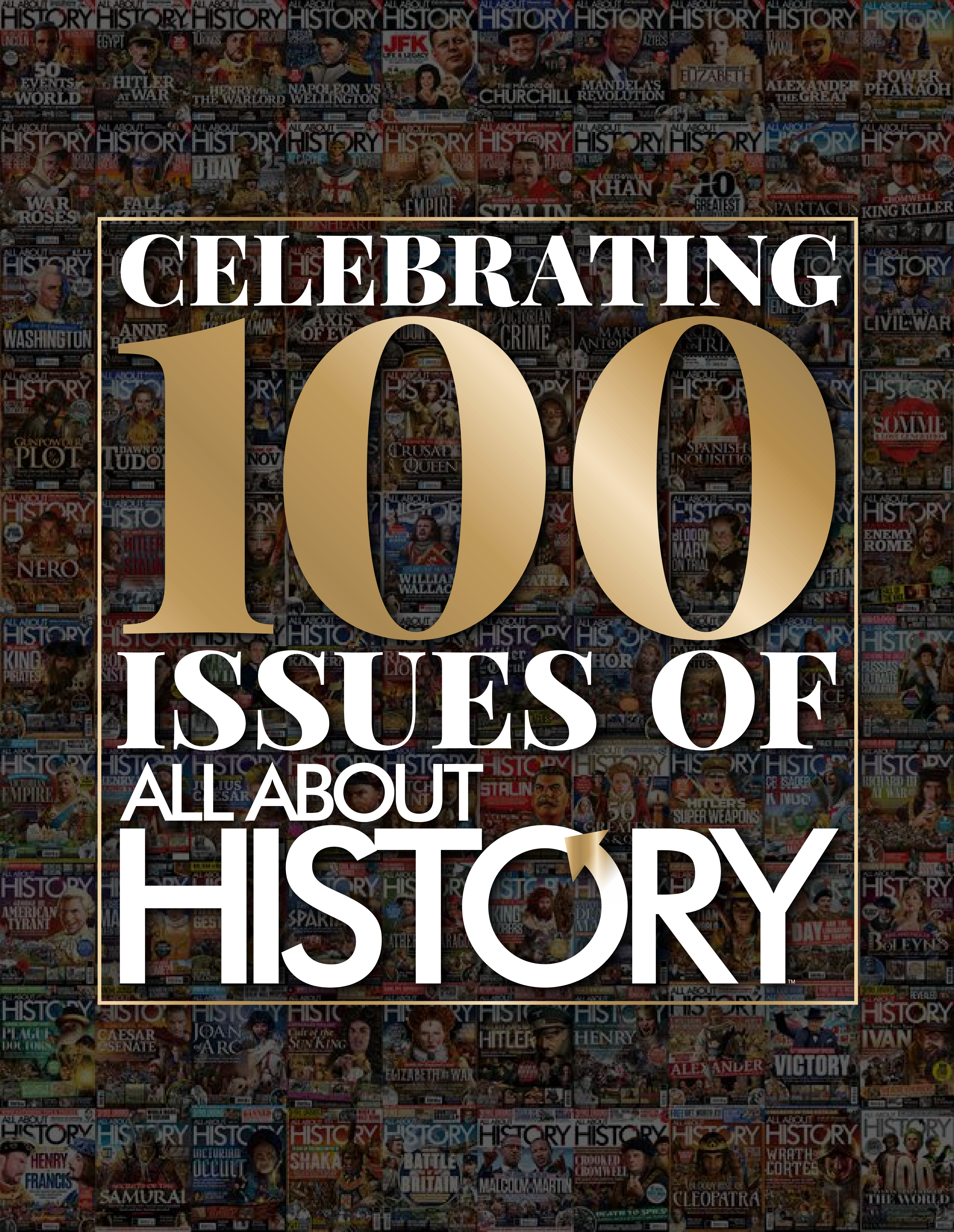
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HITLER
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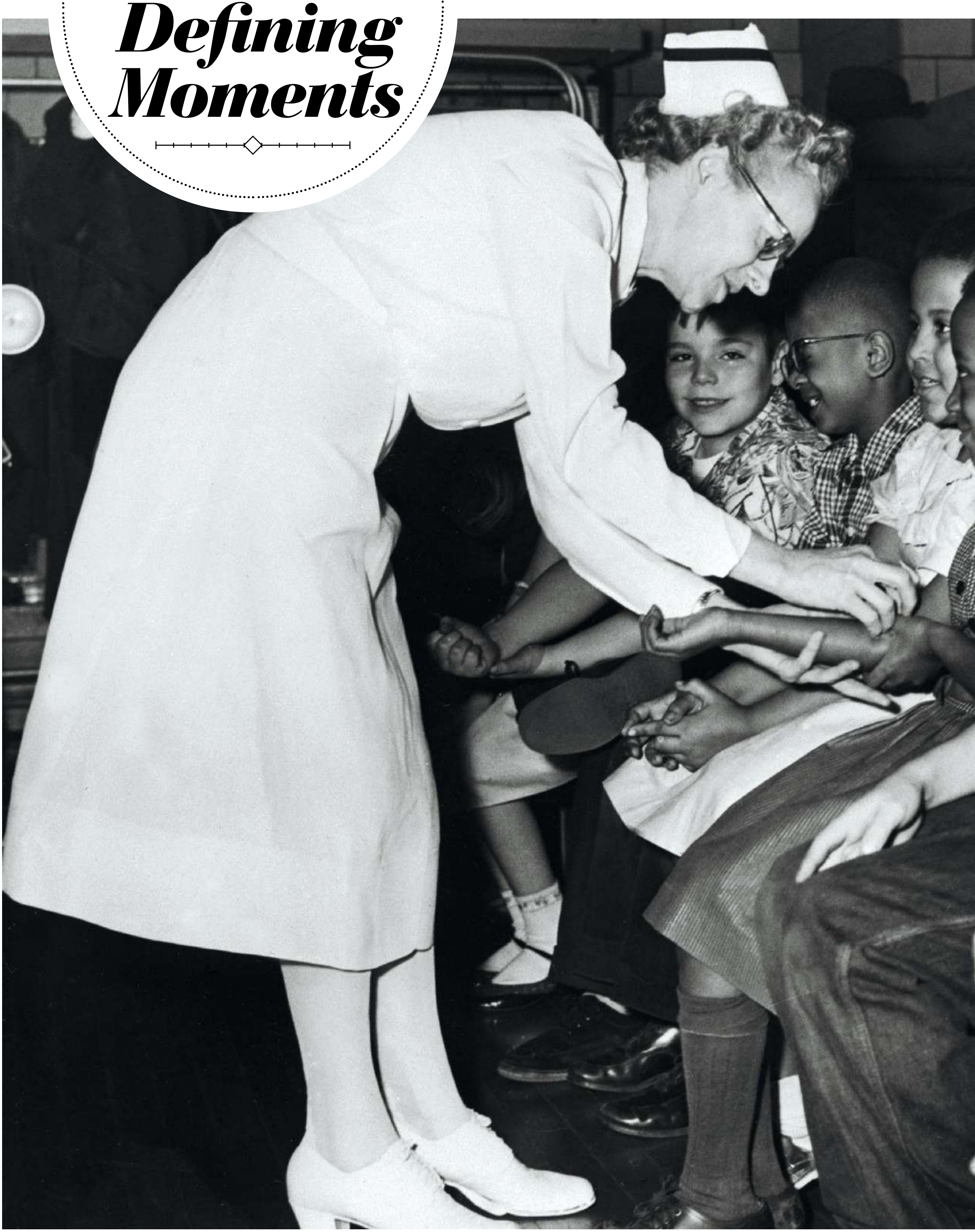
# Defining Moments



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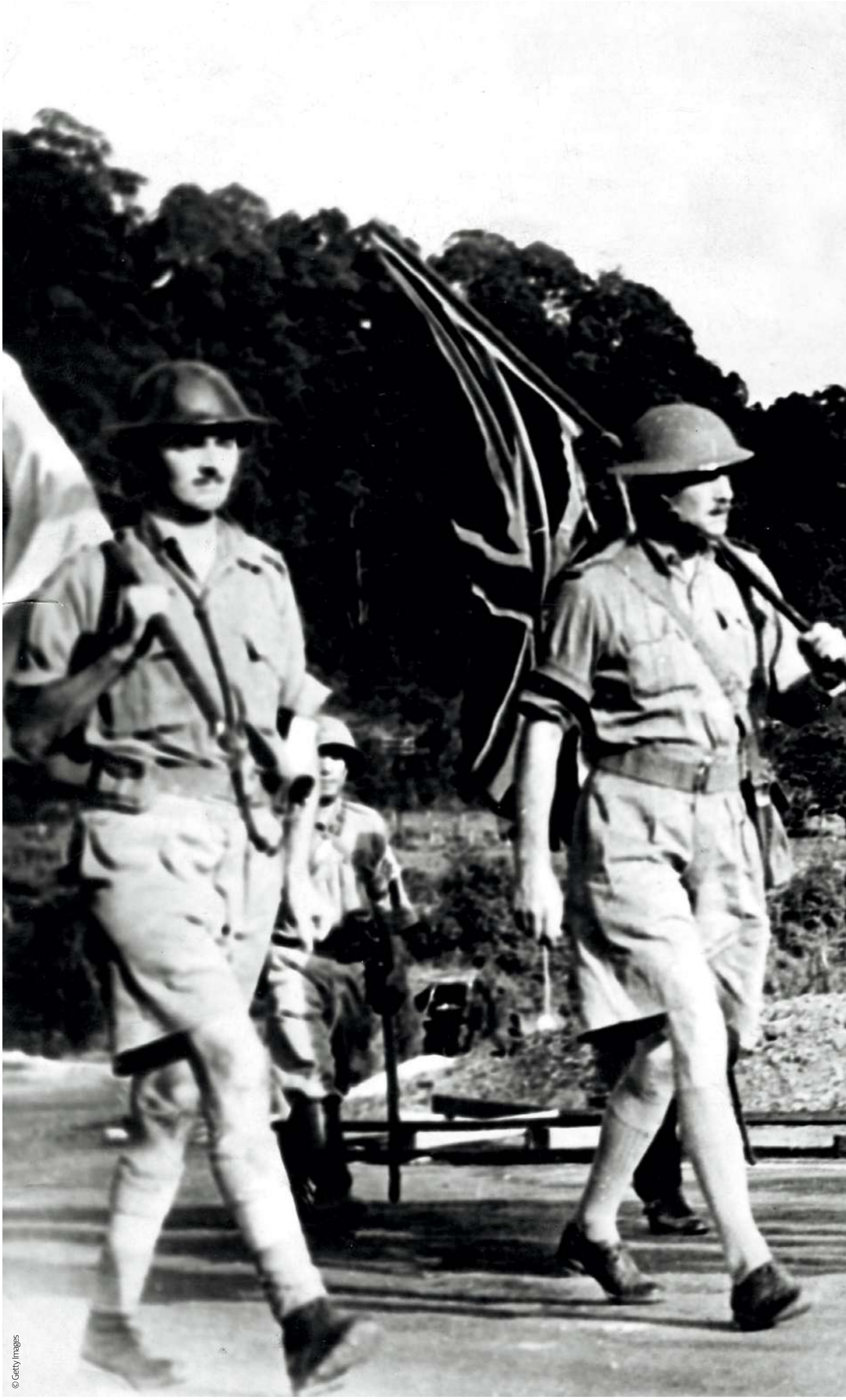
23 February 1954

# CHILDREN RECEIVE THE FIRST POLIO VACCINE

After testing his polio vaccine on volunteers, Dr Jonas Salk began his first field test on a group of children at Arsenal Elementary School in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. It was the first mass inoculation of children against polio, a serious viral infection that mostly affected youngsters. Thanks to the vaccine, polio has been virtually eliminated in most parts of the world.



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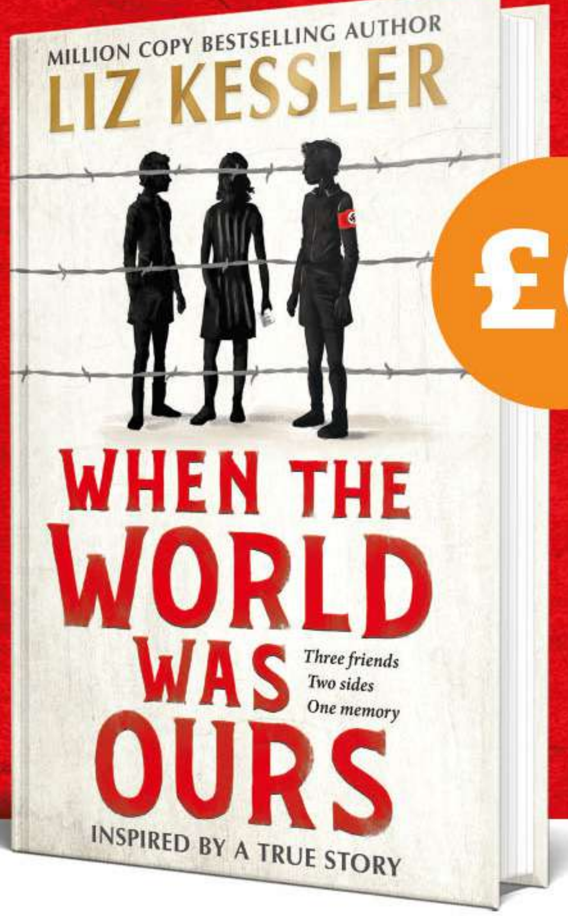
15 February 1942

# THE FALL OF SINGAPORE

During WWII, Japanese forces successfully invaded Singapore, a British crown colony. The surrender of the British-led forces was the largest in history, with around 80,000 British, Indian and Australian soldiers becoming prisoners of war. In this image, Lieutenant-General Arthur Percival (far right) is on his way to surrender to the Japanese.

Powerful. Heartbreaking. Life-affirming.



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# ALL ABOUT

# THE HUNDRED YEARS' WAR

We find out how this long period of conflict between the powers of Western Europe helped to reshape the medieval world

14 INSIDE BODIAM CASTLE

16 ANATOMY OF AN ENGLISH LONGBOWMAN

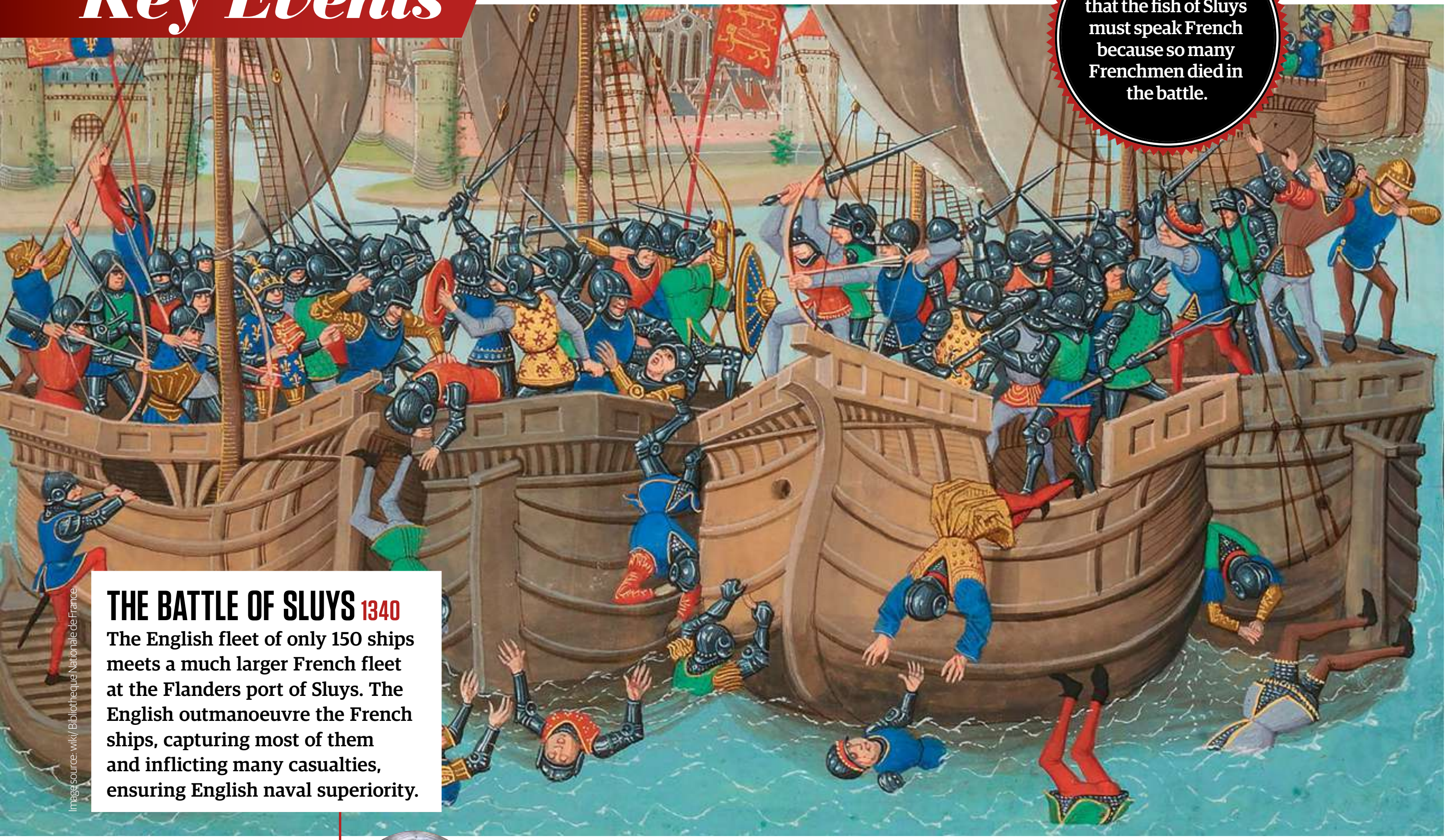
18 LEADERS OF THE WAR

20 THE ORIGINS OF CHIVALRY

Main image source: © Alamy

Written by Jessica Leggett, Melanie Clegg, Murray Dahm

# Key Events



The English joke that the fish of Sluys must speak French because so many Frenchmen died in the battle.

Image source: wiki/Bibliotheque Nationale de France

## THE BATTLE OF SLUYS 1340

The English fleet of only 150 ships meets a much larger French fleet at the Flanders port of Sluys. The English outmanoeuvre the French ships, capturing most of them and inflicting many casualties, ensuring English naval superiority.

1337

## CLAIMS TO THE THRONE
1337

Edward III of England renews his claims to the French throne after Philip of Valois says Gascony, English-held territory, should be controlled by the French.

## THE SIEGE OF CALAIS
1347

Following Crécy, the English besiege Calais. The port falls to them in August 1347 and will remain in English hands until 1558.

## THE BLACK DEATH
1348

The plague reaches both England and France in 1348 and over the next three years kills between 30% and 60% of the population.

## THE WAR RENEWED
1369

Charles V renews the war. John II died in English captivity in 1364 (he returned to captivity after one of his sons escaped).

1376

## DEATH OF THE BLACK PRINCE 1376

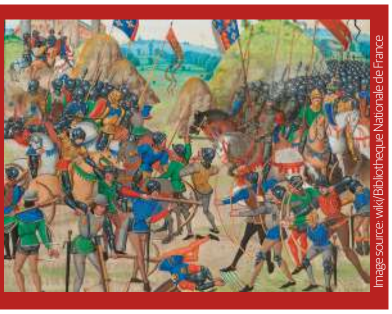
Edward, the Black Prince, is one of the most capable English commanders in the war. He commanded at Crécy and Poitiers but dies before his father.

## DEATH OF EDWARD III 1377

Both England and France face internal struggles and, by the time of Edward's death, France has reconquered much of the land ceded to England thanks largely to Bernard du Guesclin.

## THE BATTLE OF CRÉCY 1346

Landing in northwest France, the English army threatens Paris. Pursued by a French army, the English prepare to fight at Crécy despite being outnumbered. English longbowmen and men-at-arms defeat French knights forced to charge uphill in muddy conditions.



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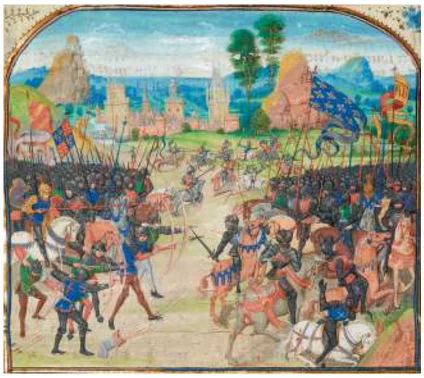
## THE BATTLE OF POITIERS 1356

The Prince of Wales, Edward, meets a much larger French army at Poitiers in Aquitaine, Western France. The French are heavily defeated by Edward's experienced army (many of them veterans of Crécy). King John II of France is captured.



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## THE BATTLE OF AGINCOURT

1415

Henry's small, outnumbered army meets the French near Azincourt. Again, the English longbowmen prove superior to French knights charging in unfavourable conditions. Thousands of French die along with hundreds of the nobility. Many more are captured.

One theory of the origin of 'the fingers' (or V sign) is from the English archers at Agincourt.

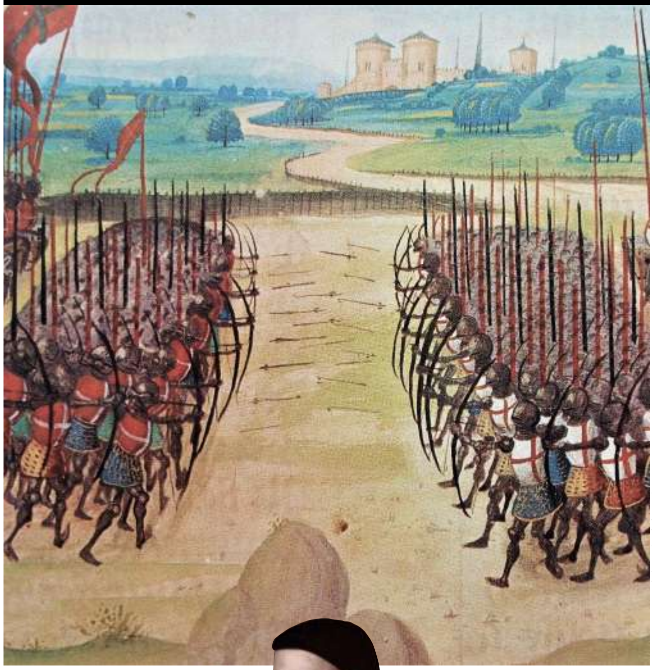
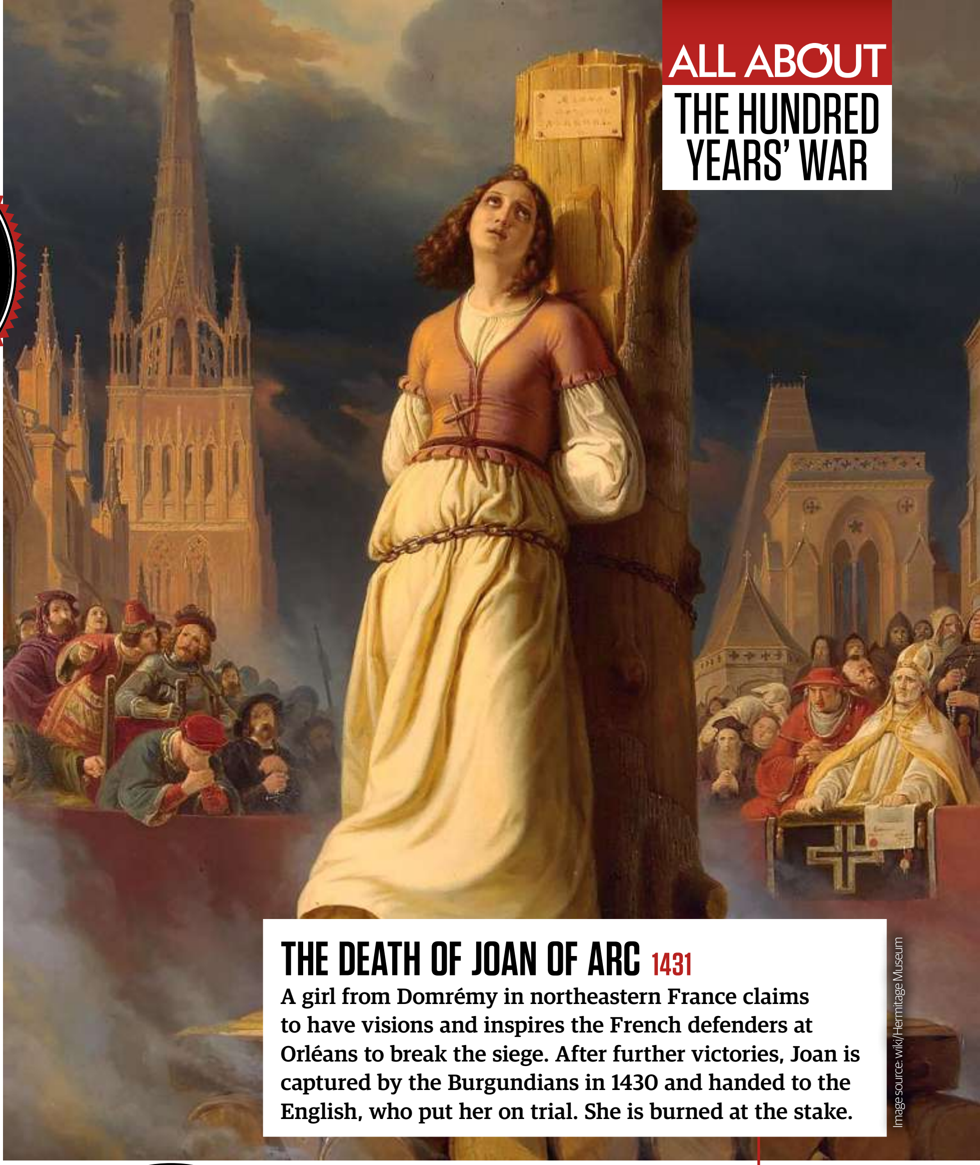


Image source: wiki/Musée de l'armée



## THE DEATH OF JOAN OF ARC 1431

A girl from Domrémy in northeastern France claims to have visions and inspires the French defenders at Orléans to break the siege. After further victories, Joan is captured by the Burgundians in 1430 and handed to the English, who put her on trial. She is burned at the stake.

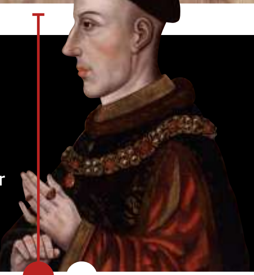
Image source: wiki/Hermitage Museum

1413

## KING HENRY V

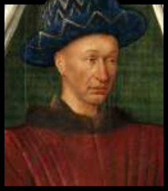
1413

Almost as soon as he succeeds as king, Henry V looks to renew the war on the continent, which has been in abeyance.



## THE TREATY OF TROYES

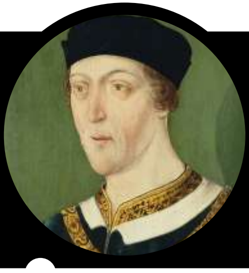
1420



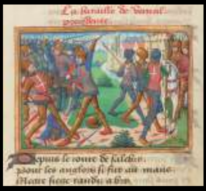
Continued success in France allows Henry V to negotiate that he will succeed as King of France on the death of Charles VI, disinheriting the Dauphin, Charles VII.

## THREE KINGS 1422

King Henry V dies in August, followed by Charles VI in October. Instead of the throne going to Henry's nine-month-old son, Henry VI, Charles VII becomes King of France.



## THE BATTLE OF VERNEUIL 1424

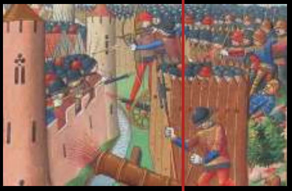


The war is renewed by the English Duke of Bedford on behalf of Henry VI, who wins the battle of Verneuil in Normandy.

## SIEGE OF ORLÉANS

1428

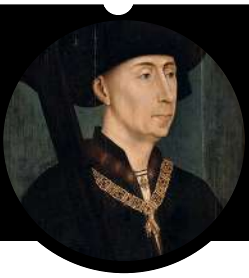
After continuing successes, the English besiege the important city of Orléans. After six months of progress, the siege is defeated in only nine days.



1431

## THE TREATY OF ARRAS

1435



Peace between the Burgundians and French crown removes a vital ally to the English in France and allows the French to concentrate on consolidating power.

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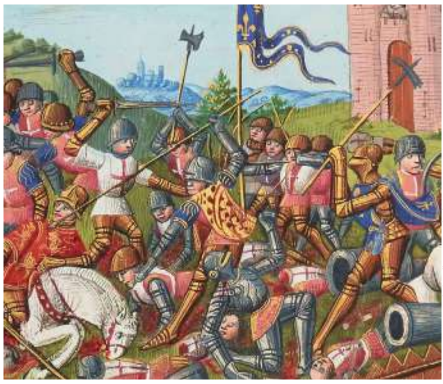
## TREATY OF BRETIGNY 1360

With their king still in captivity and their kingdom in turmoil, a negotiation of peace favourable to England is agreed. England gains a great deal of territory while ceding as little as possible.

Image source: wiki/National Archive

In order to pay his ransom, King John minted the first franc (worth 20 sous).



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## THE BATTLE OF CASTILLON 1453

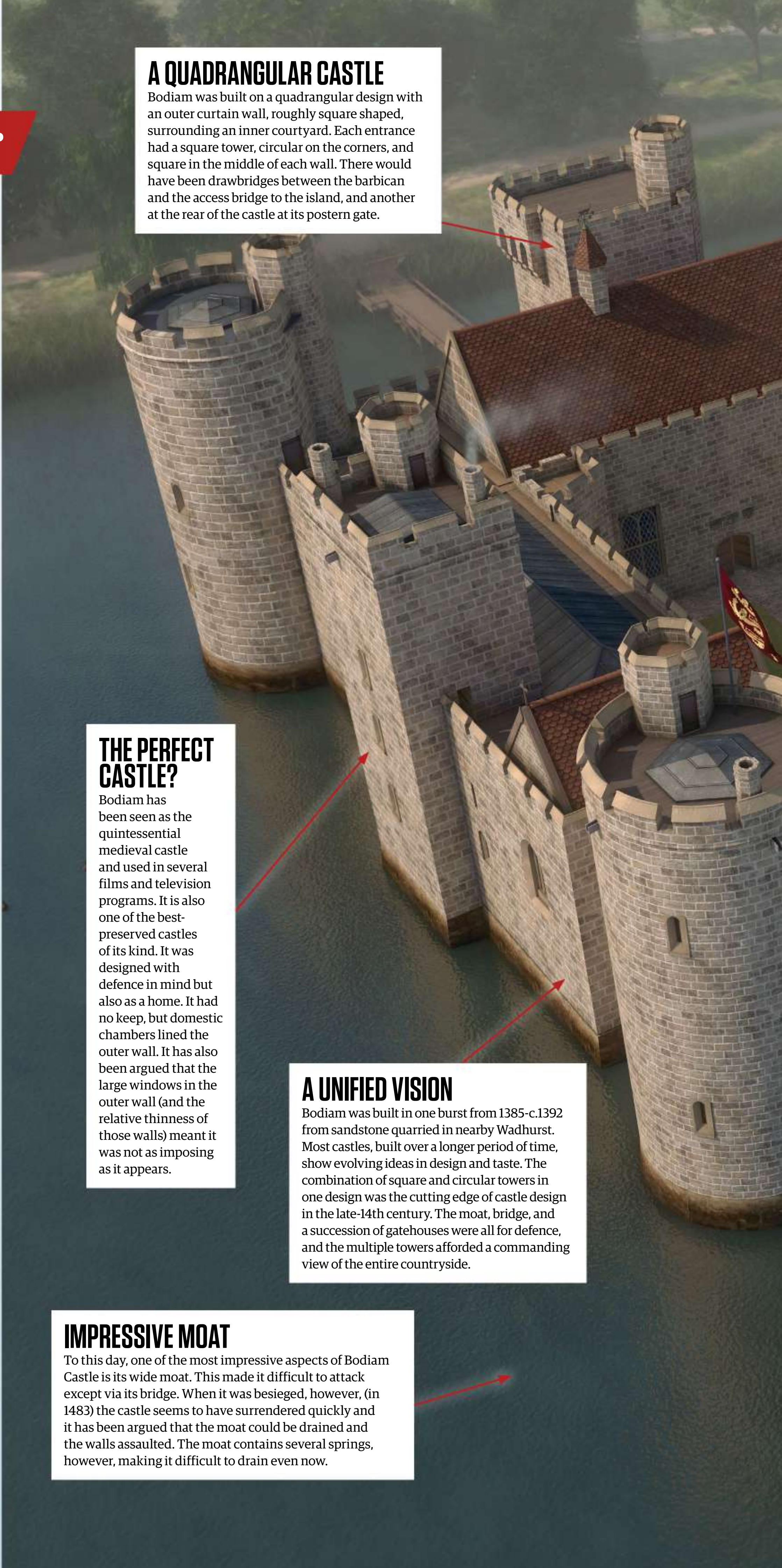
Charles VII recaptures Normandy and then invades Gascony, taking the capital, Bordeaux, in 1451. The English army under John Talbot attacks the French but is defeated thanks to the use of artillery by the French army. It's the last battle of the war.

# BODIAM CASTLE

## Robertsbridge, East Sussex, UK

## 1385-92

Bodiam Castle was built in 1385, in the middle of the Hundred Years' War, by Sir Edward Dalyngrigge (or Dallingridge). Dalyngrigge was MP for Sussex and had made his fortune in France as a mercenary from 1367-77. Edward was the youngest son and so not able to inherit his father's estates, but on his return to England he married Elizabeth Wardeux, through whom he gained a manor house at Bodiam. In the panic that followed a French fleet assembling at Sluys in Flanders in 1385, permission was given to Edward by King Richard II to fortify the manor house. Instead, a new castle was built with a wide moat and impressive defences. This was built quickly and in one seven-year phase (unlike many other castles that took decades to complete). This rapid building was partly to shore up the defences of the south coast of England from the threat of invasion by the French (Rye, Folkestone and Winchelsea had been raided between 1377 and 1380). Edward served in ten parliaments and was keeper of the Tower and governor of the city in 1392-3, dying in around 1395. His son John inherited the castle and continued to support Richard II and his successor, Henry IV. As soon as the Hundred Years' War ended in 1453, the castle was embroiled in the fight for the throne of England between the houses of Lancaster and York from 1455. The Lewknor family inherited the castle and Sir Thomas Lewknor supported the House of Lancaster. The castle was besieged by supporters of Richard III (of York) in 1483. The castle was sold a series of times in the 16th and 17th centuries before being slighted (probably during the Civil War in 1644); this was to prevent it being reused as a fortification. Thereafter it became a picturesque ruin and was sold several more times. George Curzon, Lord Curzon of Kedleston, bought the castle in 1916 and began its restoration, giving it to the National Trust in 1925.



### A QUADRANGULAR CASTLE

Bodiam was built on a quadrangular design with an outer curtain wall, roughly square shaped, surrounding an inner courtyard. Each entrance had a square tower, circular on the corners, and square in the middle of each wall. There would have been drawbridges between the barbican and the access bridge to the island, and another at the rear of the castle at its postern gate.

### THE PERFECT CASTLE?

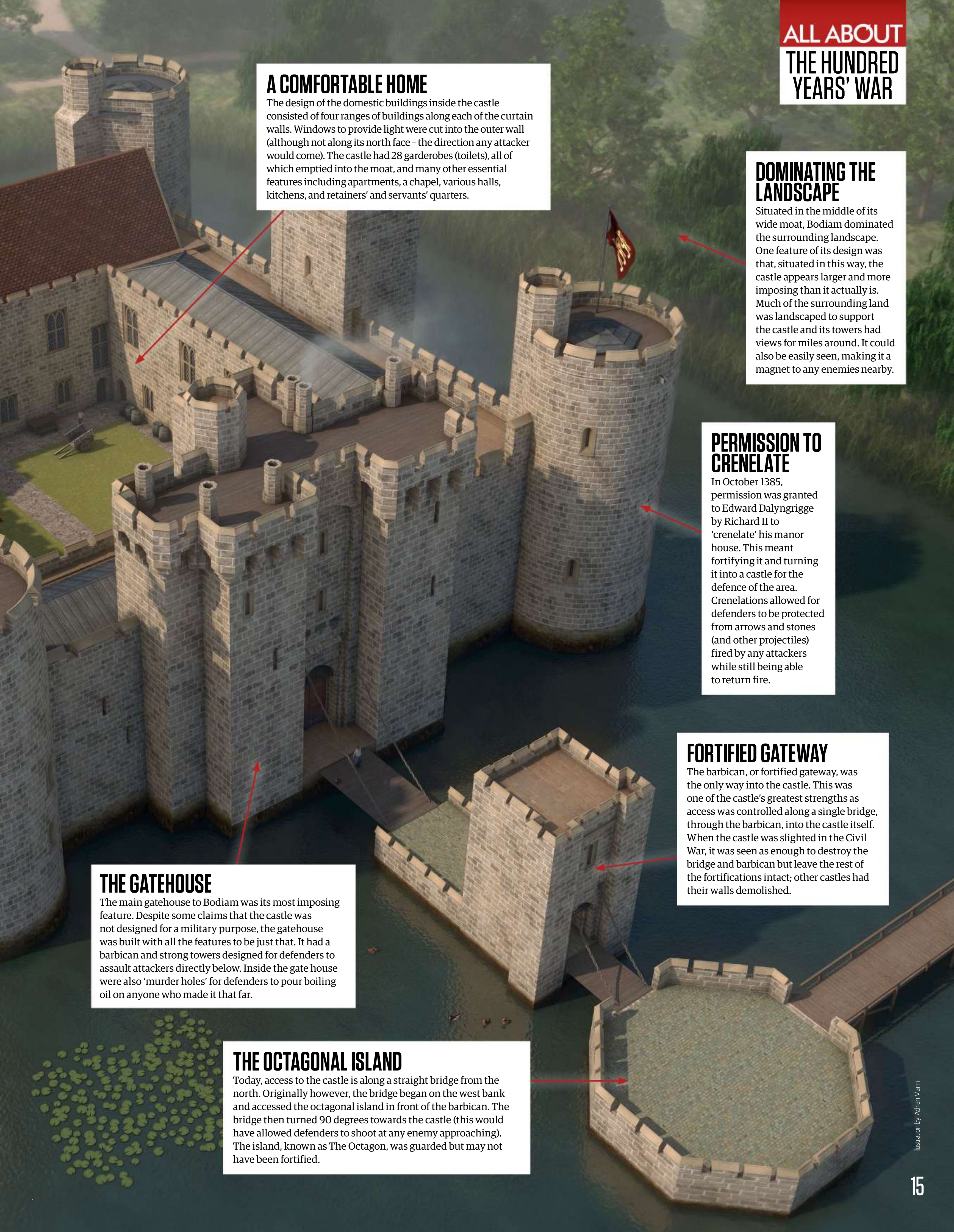
Bodiam has been seen as the quintessential medieval castle and used in several films and television programs. It is also one of the best-preserved castles of its kind. It was designed with defence in mind but also as a home. It had no keep, but domestic chambers lined the outer wall. It has also been argued that the large windows in the outer wall (and the relative thinness of those walls) meant it was not as imposing as it appears.

### A UNIFIED VISION

Bodiam was built in one burst from 1385-c.1392 from sandstone quarried in nearby Wadhurst. Most castles, built over a longer period of time, show evolving ideas in design and taste. The combination of square and circular towers in one design was the cutting edge of castle design in the late-14th century. The moat, bridge, and a succession of gatehouses were all for defence, and the multiple towers afforded a commanding view of the entire countryside.

### IMPRESSIVE MOAT

To this day, one of the most impressive aspects of Bodiam Castle is its wide moat. This made it difficult to attack except via its bridge. When it was besieged, however, (in 1483) the castle seems to have surrendered quickly and it has been argued that the moat could be drained and the walls assaulted. The moat contains several springs, however, making it difficult to drain even now.



## A COMFORTABLE HOME

The design of the domestic buildings inside the castle consisted of four ranges of buildings along each of the curtain walls. Windows to provide light were cut into the outer wall (although not along its north face – the direction any attacker would come). The castle had 28 garderobes (toilets), all of which emptied into the moat, and many other essential features including apartments, a chapel, various halls, kitchens, and retainers' and servants' quarters.

## DOMINATING THE LANDSCAPE

Situated in the middle of its wide moat, Bodiam dominated the surrounding landscape. One feature of its design was that, situated in this way, the castle appears larger and more imposing than it actually is. Much of the surrounding land was landscaped to support the castle and its towers had views for miles around. It could also be easily seen, making it a magnet to any enemies nearby.

## PERMISSION TO CRENELATE

In October 1385, permission was granted to Edward Dalyngrigge by Richard II to 'crenelate' his manor house. This meant fortifying it and turning it into a castle for the defence of the area. Crenelations allowed for defenders to be protected from arrows and stones (and other projectiles) fired by any attackers while still being able to return fire.

## FORTIFIED GATEWAY

The barbican, or fortified gateway, was the only way into the castle. This was one of the castle's greatest strengths as access was controlled along a single bridge, through the barbican, into the castle itself. When the castle was slighted in the Civil War, it was seen as enough to destroy the bridge and barbican but leave the rest of the fortifications intact; other castles had their walls demolished.

## THE GATEHOUSE

The main gatehouse to Bodiam was its most imposing feature. Despite some claims that the castle was not designed for a military purpose, the gatehouse was built with all the features to be just that. It had a barbican and strong towers designed for defenders to assault attackers directly below. Inside the gate house were also 'murder holes' for defenders to pour boiling oil on anyone who made it that far.

## THE OCTAGONAL ISLAND

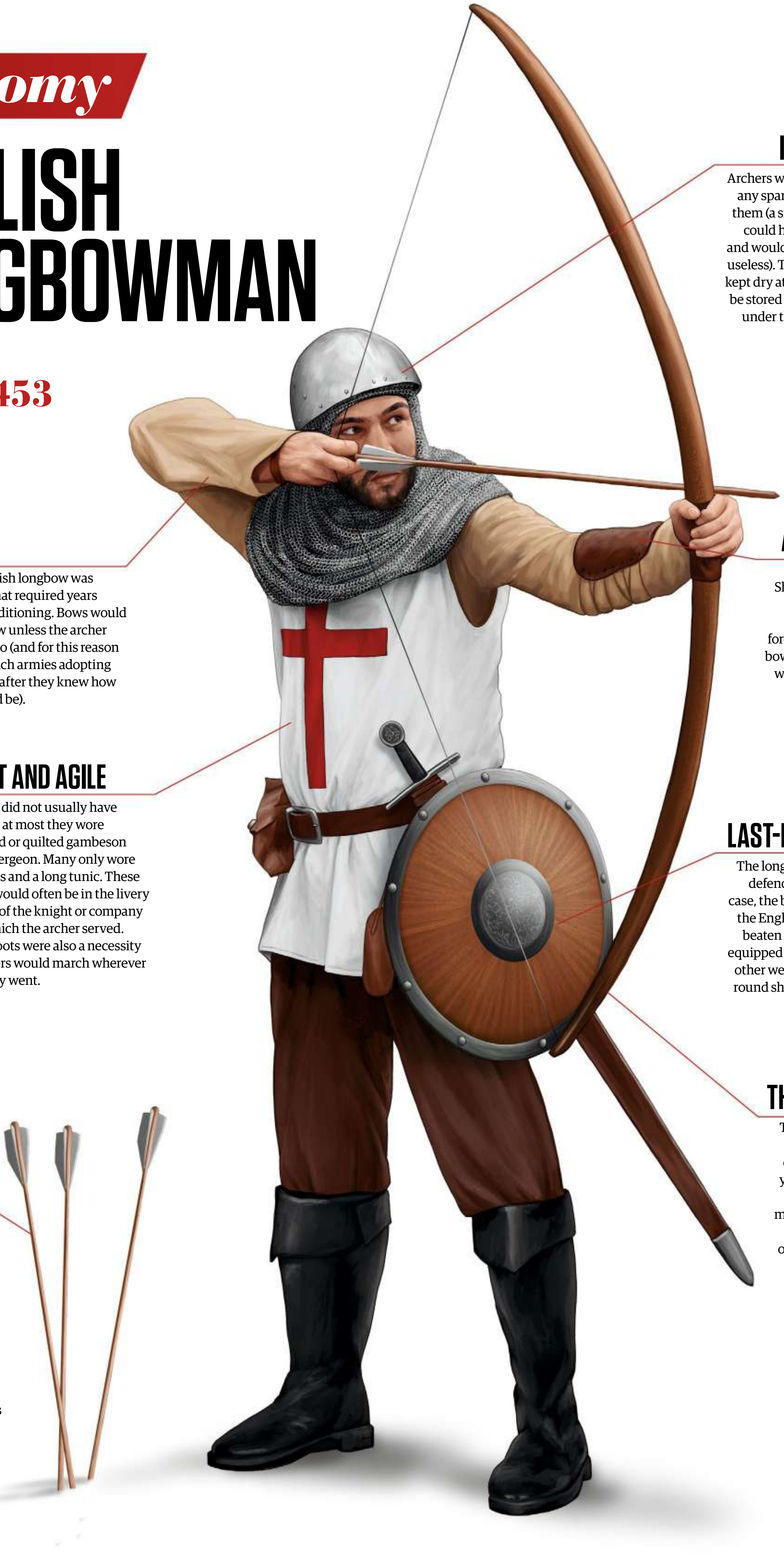
Today, access to the castle is along a straight bridge from the north. Originally however, the bridge began on the west bank and accessed the octagonal island in front of the barbican. The bridge then turned 90 degrees towards the castle (this would have allowed defenders to shoot at any enemy approaching). The island, known as The Octagon, was guarded but may not have been fortified.

Illustration by: Adrian Mann

# ENGLISH LONGBOWMAN

## France

## 1337-1453



## KEEP IT DRY

Archers would need to carry any spare bowstrings with them (a snapped bowstring could happen at any time and would render the archer useless). These needed to be kept dry at all costs so would be stored in a pouch or even under their helmet or hat.

## BORN TO IT

Mastering the English longbow was a lifelong pursuit that required years of training and conditioning. Bows would be very hard to draw unless the archer was used to doing so (and for this reason we do not find French armies adopting longbowmen even after they knew how effective they could be).

## A WORKMAN'S HANDS

Archers' hands needed protection. Shooting gloves on the drawing hand (to protect the fingers) and a bracer on the opposite wrist (to protect the forearm from the passage of arrow and bowstring) were essential. Unlike what we see in modern film and television, no one else would have worn such forearm protection.

## LIGHT AND AGILE

Archers did not usually have armour, at most they wore a padded or quilted gambeson or haubergeon. Many only wore breeches and a long tunic. These tunics would often be in the livery colours of the knight or company with which the archer served. Good boots were also a necessity as archers would march wherever the army went.

## LAST-DITCH DEFENCE

The longbowman might need to defend himself (if this was the case, the battle had gone badly for the English) or perhaps pursue a beaten foe. To do so many were equipped with simple swords and other weapons, as well as a small round shield known as a buckler.

## THE WEAPON OF CHOICE

The English longbow was a complex device that had taken centuries to evolve. Usually staves were made of yew, dried for several years and then shaped into a 'D' shape over several more. The stave was made of a length of wood six feet or more, consisting of both heartwood (for strength) and softer sapwood to allow bending.

## ARROWS, ARROWS, ARROWS!

A longbowman could shoot up to 10 arrows a minute, so vast quantities of arrows would be made and brought to the battlefield. These would be ferried by runners (often young boys) bringing them to the archers in bundles of 24. They had various heads with different battlefield roles.

Illustration by: Kevin McGivern

*Historical Treasures*

# TOMB OF EDWARD THE BLACK PRINCE

## One of England's finest medieval monuments
## England, 1376

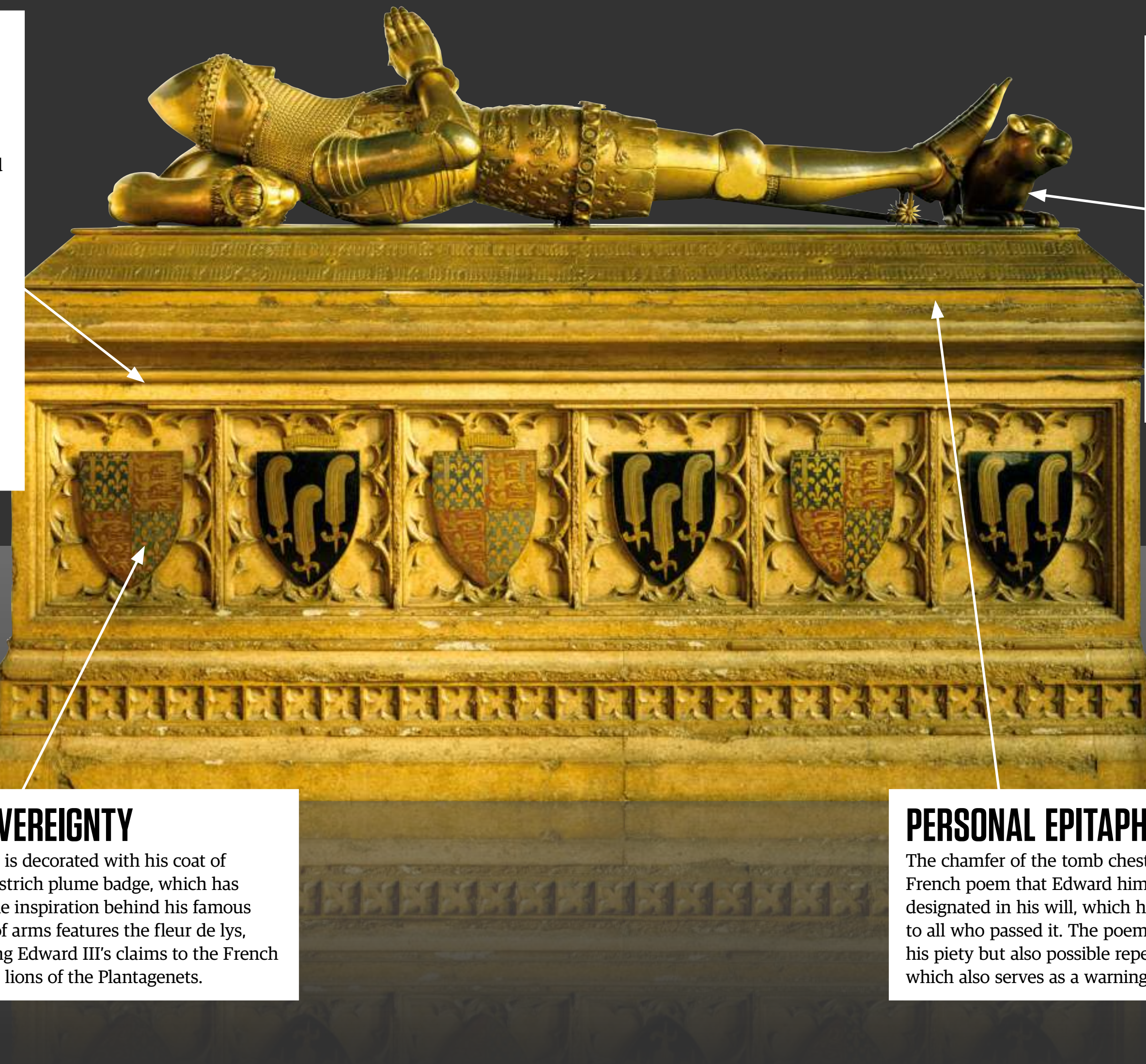
In medieval and early modern England, tomb effigies - life-sized sculptures - were a way to preserve a person's memory and reflect their power. Usually only the wealthy could afford these splendid recumbent effigies, which first appeared in France during the 12th century and were known as 'gisants', the French word for 'lying'. Soon afterwards, they were adopted by members of the English royal family and the aristocracy.

Just like with portraiture, effigies frequently depicted idealised versions of the deceased. They would be portrayed as if they were still living, with their eyes open and hands clasped in prayer, while wearing clothes that indicated the deceased's rank in life. The effigies and the tomb chests underneath them would often be decorated with heraldry to emphasise the royal and noble lineage of the dead.

Interestingly, while some people were able to leave behind specific details about the design of their tomb chests and effigies, their instructions were not always followed completely. Ultimately, the final outcome could be heavily influenced by those who were left in charge of commissioning the tomb, if one had not been created already, or if no instructions had been left at all.

This particular tomb belongs to Edward, Prince of Wales, more commonly remembered today as the Black Prince - a nickname that became associated with him from the 16th century onwards, possibly due to the black armour that he wore. The son of King Edward III, the Black Prince was considered one of the greatest English commanders in the Hundred Years' War, notably playing a key role in the defeat of the French army at the Battle of Crécy when he was just 16.

During his lifetime, Edward was seen as the epitome of a chivalrous knight despite his reputation for cruelty against the French. In 1376, he died at the age of 45 and predeceased his father by just a year, resulting in his 10-year-old son - Richard - becoming king. Leaving detailed instructions in his will for his funeral, tomb and epitaph, the prince was buried in the Trinity Chapel at Canterbury Cathedral, where he remains today.



### ATTENTION TO DETAIL

The tomb chest itself is made from Purbeck marble and there is a wooden tester (not pictured) that hangs over the top, depicting the Holy Trinity. Edward's heraldic achievements (his jupon, scabbard, helm, crest, shield and gauntlets) are preserved and on display in a glass case nearby.

### ANIMAL SYMBOLISM

The prince's effigy is made of gilded copper and it depicts him in his armour, decorated with his coat of arms, as a nod to his achievements as a knight. Underneath his head there is a crowned lion, an animal associated with bravery, and his feet rest on top of a leopard.

### SIGNS OF SOVEREIGNTY

Edward's tomb chest is decorated with his coat of arms and his black ostrich plume badge, which has been suggested as the inspiration behind his famous nickname. His coat of arms features the fleur de lys, which represents King Edward III's claims to the French crown, as well as the lions of the Plantagenets.

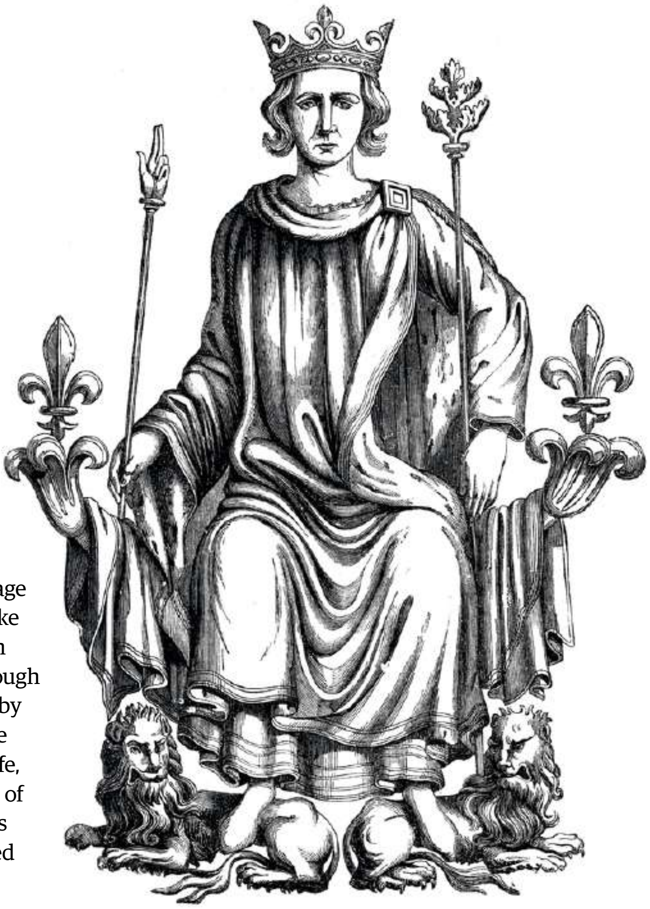
### PERSONAL EPITAPH

The chamfer of the tomb chest is inscribed with a French poem that Edward himself picked out and designated in his will, which he wanted to be visible to all who passed it. The poem not only reflects his piety but also possible repentance for his sins, which also serves as a warning to others.

© Alamy

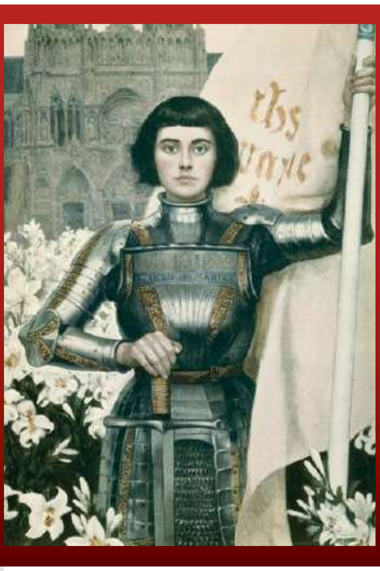
# THE KEY PLAYERS

## Few periods were as dramatic or bloody as the Hundred Years' War, nor produced such a rich cast of characters



### CHARLES VI FRENCH, 1368-1422

Charles VI succeeded to the French throne at the age of 11 after the death of his father, but would not take personal charge of the country, which was ruled in the meantime by his uncles, until he was 21. Although Charles was a popular ruler, his reign was marred by a number of mental breakdowns, during which the country was effectively ruled by his unpopular wife, Isabeau of Bavaria. France became prey to a series of destabilising rivalries and feuding between various court factions, which would in turn be manipulated by Henry V in his bid to take the French throne.



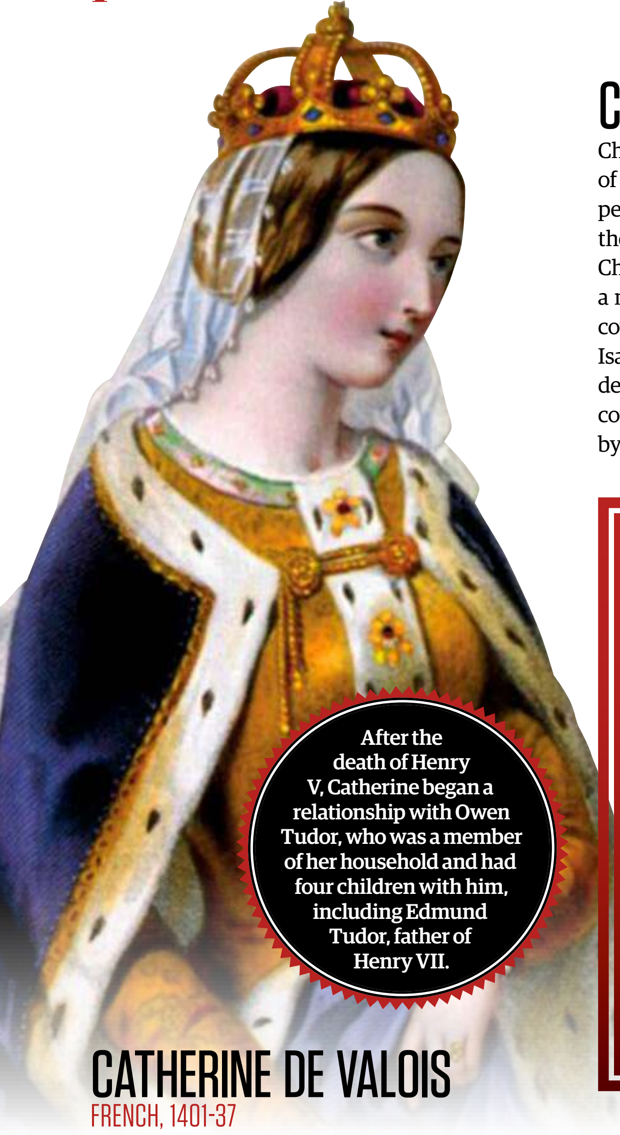
## Joan of Arc

### French, c.1412-31

An illiterate girl from Domrémy in Picardy might not have seemed like the most likely candidate to become a national heroine, however Joan of Arc acted as a beacon of hope at a time when her beleaguered country desperately needed divine inspiration. Claiming that she had experienced visions of various saints brought her to the attention of Charles VII, who had not yet been crowned despite inheriting the throne seven years earlier. With Joan's assistance, Charles would be crowned in July 1429, but when she was captured almost a year later, he was unable to save her from the stake.

**Joan of Arc claimed to have experienced her first divine vision of Saint Michael, Saint Catherine and Saint Margaret when she was just 13 years old.**

3x © Getty Images



**After the death of Henry V, Catherine began a relationship with Owen Tudor, who was a member of her household and had four children with him, including Edmund Tudor, father of Henry VII.**

### CATHERINE DE VALOIS

FRENCH, 1401-37

As the youngest daughter of Charles VI and his domineering wife Isabeau of Bavaria, Catherine de Valois might not initially have appeared destined for greatness. However, negotiations to marry her to Henry, eldest son of Henry IV of England, began during her childhood. Although they would quickly flounder, Henry later revived the plan after he succeeded to the throne and insisted upon the marriage taking place as part of the negotiations after his victory at Agincourt. Catherine would be left widowed with a baby son, who succeeded his father as Henry VI, just over two years later.

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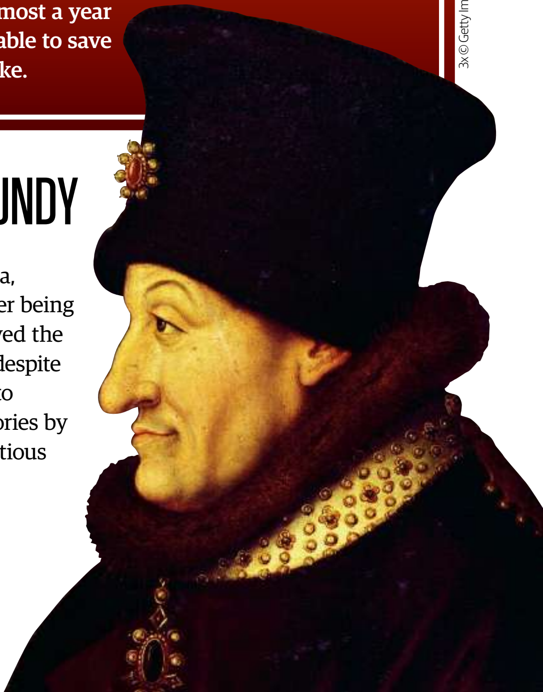
### PHILIP THE BOLD, DUKE OF BURGUNDY

FRENCH, 1342-1404

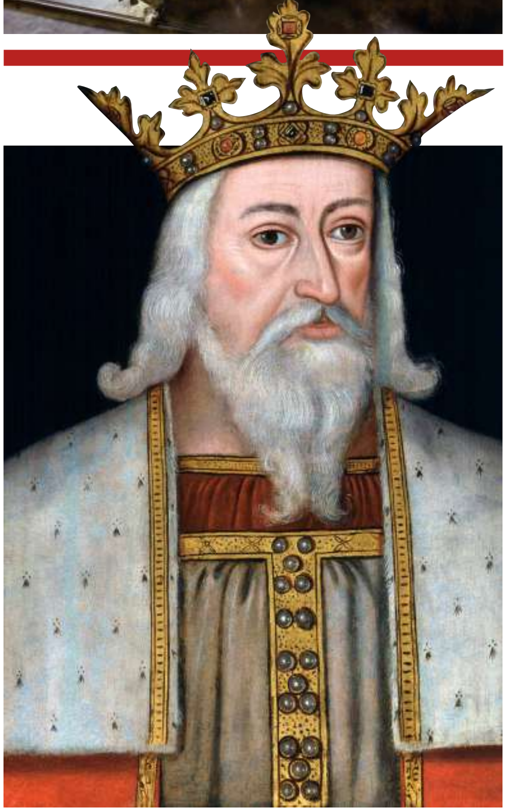
The fourth son of John II of France and Bonne of Bohemia, Philip earned his nickname 'The Bold' at the age of 14 after being captured by the English at the Battle of Poitiers. He received the duchy of Burgundy after his release four years later and, despite his relatively junior position in the royal family, went on to consolidate his power and increase his already vast territories by marrying Marguerite of Flanders. Highly intelligent, ambitious and politically capable, Philip would exert great influence at court, with his power peaking during the minority and numerous mental breakdowns of his nephew Charles VI.



## EDWARD OF WOODSTOCK, THE BLACK PRINCE

ENGLISH, 1330-76

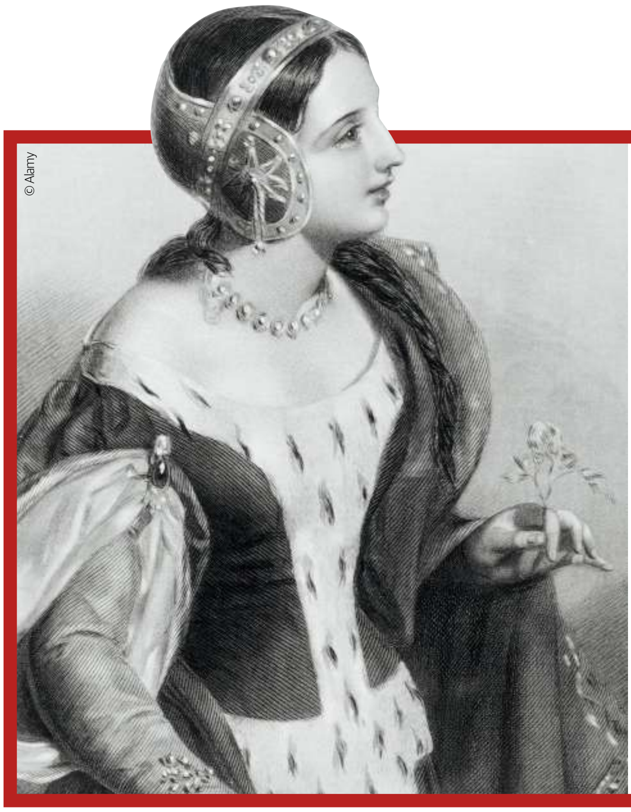
Renowned as one of the most fearsome warriors of his generation, Edward of Woodstock, eldest son of Edward III, was known as the Black Prince thanks to his ferocious reputation in France, where he commanded his father's forces to devastating effect. This included defeating the French at the battles of Crécy and Poitiers, where he took the French king prisoner. Sadly, Edward died of natural causes in 1376 before he could inherit the throne.



## EDWARD III

ENGLISH, 1312-77

Regarded by many as one of the greatest English monarchs, Edward III's 50 years on the throne completely reversed the damage done by his father's disastrous reign and firmly established him as a leading player on the European stage. Encouraged by his near subjugation of Scotland, he turned his attention to France and started a war by declaring himself rightful king, citing the claim of his mother Isabelle to the French throne.



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## Isabelle of France

French, 1295-1358

Known to posterity as the She Wolf of France, Isabelle was the only daughter of Philip IV of France and from an early age was renowned for her beauty and intelligence. At the age of 12 she was sent to England to marry Edward II, but although the marriage began well the couple would eventually become completely estranged. This escalated tensions between England and France and culminated in her son, Edward III, claiming the French throne for himself

## Henry V

English, 1386-1422

**When the young Prince Henry was taken under the wing of his father's cousin, Richard II, it quickly became clear that the boy was exceptionally gifted in the military arts. After he succeeded to the throne in 1413, Henry quickly made it clear that he intended to pursue his claim to the French throne, which culminated in his great victory at Agincourt in October 1415, after which he was confirmed as heir to the French King Charles VI. However, he would only be able enjoy the fruits of his success for seven years before he died of dysentery in 1422.**

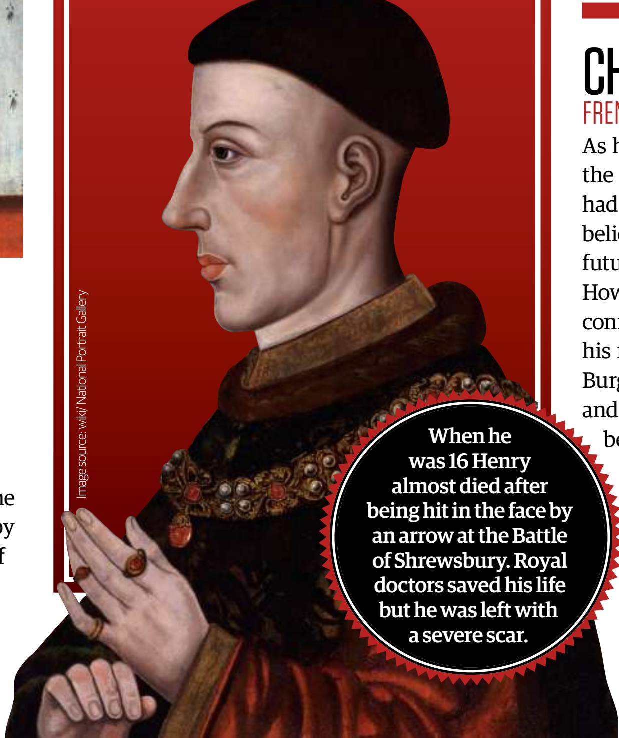
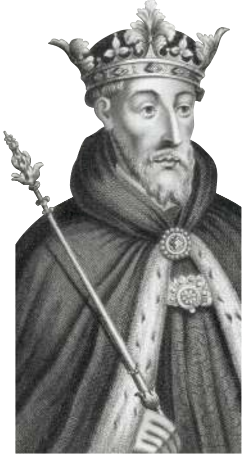


Image source: wiki/ National Portrait Gallery

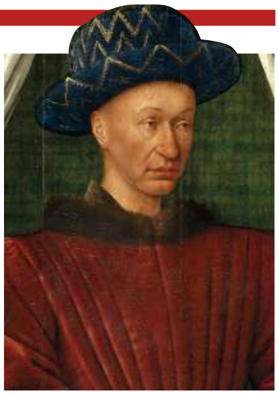
When he was 16 Henry almost died after being hit in the face by an arrow at the Battle of Shrewsbury. Royal doctors saved his life but he was left with a severe scar.



## JOHN OF GAUNT

ENGLISH, 1340-99

Like his elder brother the Black Prince, John of Gaunt, the third son of Edward III, enjoyed a reputation as a fearsome warrior and skilled tactician on the battlefield - both of which established his reputation as one of the most celebrated commanders in Europe. At home he used his position, advantageous marriage to the heiress Blanche of Lancaster and wealth to exert enormous influence at court - eventually establishing his own rival Lancastrian dynasty.



4x © Getty Images

## CHARLES VII

FRENCH, 1403-61

As heir of Charles VI, the young Charles had every right to believe that a glorious future awaited him. However, as the conflict between his family and their Burgundian cousins and the war against England escalated, his position became increasingly unstable. After the French defeat at Agincourt he was replaced as heir to the French throne by the victor, Henry V. Although his loyal followers regarded him as king after his father's death, it took him seven long years to be crowned.

Q&A with…

# PROFESSOR NIGEL SAUL

## The Emeritus Professor of History at Royal Holloway, University of London explains the origins of chivalry

**Could you explain the concept and importance of chivalry?**
The term ‘chivalry’ describes the code of behaviour of the European knightly and aristocratic class between roughly the end of the 11th century and beginning of the 16th. The term, a modern one, conceptualises a set of assumptions, mannerisms and actions which, insofar as they were ever referred to at the time, were associated with the word ‘chevallerie’. Both this word and the modern version of it have their origins in the French ‘chivaler’, meaning a knight, which in turn was derived from ‘cheval’, a horse. Chivalry was inseparably associated with knighthood, the art of fighting on horseback.

At the heart of the code lay the idea of the honourable behaviour of knights towards one another. If a knight overcame a fellow knight in battle, he did not slay him; he granted him his life, and restored his freedom in return for a ransom. Chivalry idealised the individual knight and celebrated his performance of deeds of errantry, often in the cause of winning the hand of a lady. The popularity of chivalric literature, in particular the tales associated with King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table, did much to assist the dissemination of chivalric values.

**Why did the rise of chivalry coincide with the beginning of the Hundred Years’ War?**
Although the heyday of chivalry is often thought to coincide with the onset of the Hundred Years’ War in 1337, its prominence in European culture then is deceptive. The origins of chivalry stretch back to the turn of the 11th and 12th centuries, when we find the first references to the holding of tournaments, one of the central institutions of chivalry. Perhaps the most celebrated English knight of the age was William Marshal (c.1147-1219), who won fame and fortune on the tournament circuit in France in Henry II’s reign and ended his life as earl of Pembroke and regent of England in the minority of the king’s grandson, Henry III.

Royal Holloway’s Nigel Saul is one of the world’s leading authorities on the history of medieval England. He has written numerous books on the subject, including *The Oxford Illustrated History Of Medieval England*, *Chivalry In Medieval England*, and *The Three Richards.*

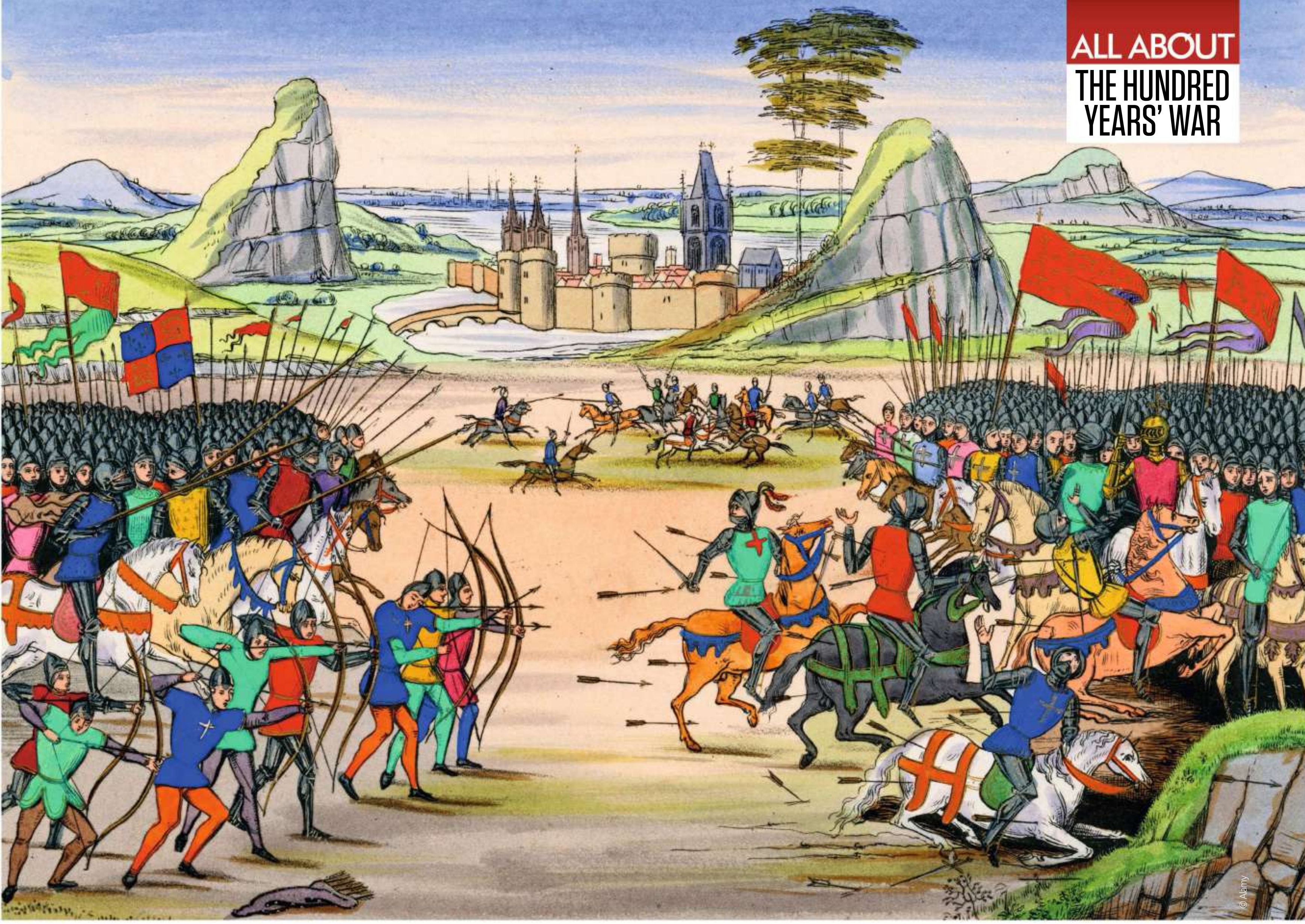
What happened in the 14th century is that chivalry began to be infused more with the values of literary chivalry, in particular the Arthurian romances, which simultaneously echoed knightly values and influenced them. Knights now were inspired themselves to act out the tales they read about in the narratives. The Hundred Years’ War found its most inspired chronicler in Jean Froissart, whose narrative is illuminated by a wealth of chivalric incident.

Getty Images

**LEFT** The Order of the Garter continues to this day with a limited membership of no more than 24 people

Headshot source: Nigel Saul

**Why did Edward III establish the Order of the Garter?**
Chivalry was by its very nature a decentralised cult which idealised deeds of individual errantry. It stressed the affinity between knights of different allegiance and nationality, and thus cut against the growth of solidarities based on the emergent national monarchies. What Edward III did when he established the Order of the Garter, Europe’s first national order of chivalry, in 1348 was harness the martial energies of chivalric knighthood to the service of the English crown in the war against France. The Companion Knights, on being admitted to the Order, swore an oath of allegiance to the king as sovereign of the Order which tied them to his personal service. The success of English arms in the war quickly made the Garter the most



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**ABOVE** The Black Prince captured King John II of France at the Battle of Poitiers, 1356

distinguished of Europe's orders of chivalry in the Middle Ages.

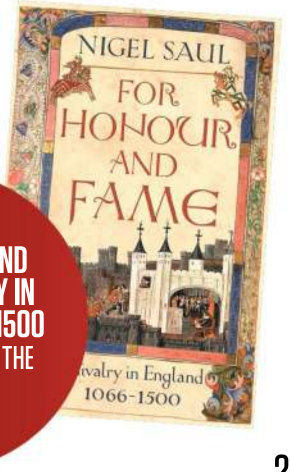
### Was the chivalric code upheld on the battlefield?

Knights were generally punctilious in observing the chivalric code on the field of battle. They made a point of sparing each other's lives in hand-to-hand combat, and battles in which large numbers of knights were killed – Crécy in 1346, for example – were relatively rare. The courtesies of chivalric behaviour, however, did not extend to the lower orders, to the infantry, who were generally put to the sword, as captives of this status would have realised little in ransom income. Warfare in the chivalric period represented a substantial improvement on what had gone on before. In the early Middle Ages members of defeated armies were usually put to the sword, and those who survived taken into slavery. With the growing monetisation of the European economy from the 11th century that behaviour no longer made sense, and the system of ransoming came into being. After he had captured the king of France at Poitiers in 1356, the Black Prince took him back to Bordeaux, feasted and entertained him, then brought him to England, where the size of his ransom became a key element in the peace negotiations between England and France.

> "Knights made a point of sparing each other's lives in hand-to-hand combat"

### Why did chivalry decline?

The question of why chivalry declined is inseparable from that of when it declined. In England a coarsening in behaviour is noticeable from the late-13th century, when knightly mortality in battle started increasing. At the battle of Lincoln in 1217 only four knights had been killed. In 1265 at Evesham, where the Montfortians were defeated, at least several dozen knights met their deaths, and the body of de Montfort himself was mutilated. One chronicler spoke of "the murder of Evesham, for battle it was none". In the Wars of the Roses the numbers of knightly casualties were higher still, and the Battle of Towton in 1461 has the enviable distinction of probably being the bloodiest ever fought on English soil. The reason for the rising mortality rate in civil war battles is to be found in growing monarchical strength, which enabled kings to clamp down much harder on traitors. Alongside the brutalisation, however, another process is to be seen, and that is the civilianisation of chivalry. By 1500 chivalric values were being redefined so as to stress the idea of peacetime service to the king, which made the knights and noblemen servants and administrators rather than soldiers and mercenaries.



**FOR HONOUR AND FAME: CHIVALRY IN ENGLAND, 1066-1500** IS OUT NOW FROM THE BODLEY HEAD

# CASTLES AND MUSEUMS

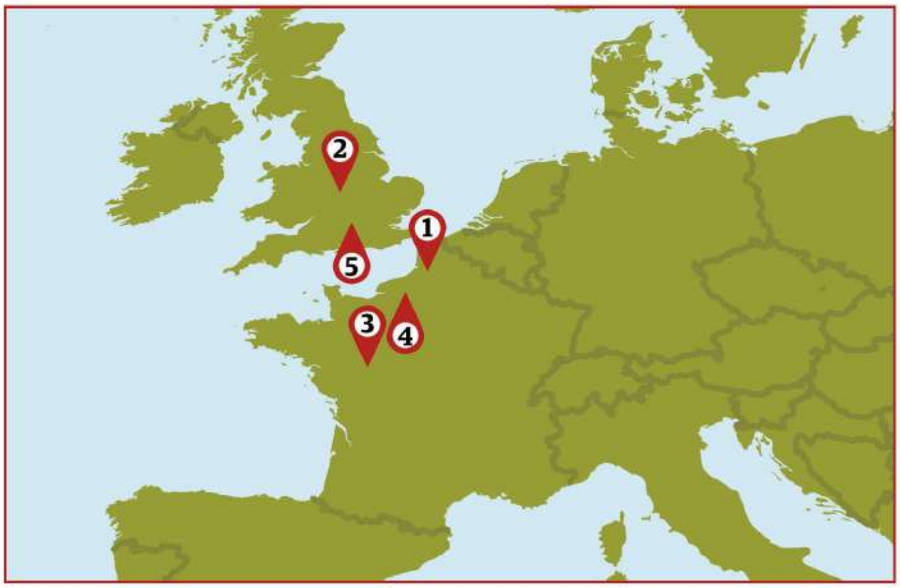
## Five places to learn about the history and legacy of the Hundred Years' War

### ① THE 'AZINCOURT 1415' CENTRE

AZINCOURT, PAS-DE-CALAIS

No list of places to explore for the Hundred Years' War is complete without a visit to the Agincourt battlefield. The recently renovated 'Azincourt 1415' Centre is a museum dedicated to exploring the historical, economic, political and social contexts of the Battle of Agincourt, as well as highlighting the daily life of those living in the Middle Ages. It's perfect for a family visit, with plenty of interactive screens and games to keep children entertained, and there's a route that takes visitors to the battlefield itself, where there's an observation tower that offers a great view of the site. Considered both a museum but also a place of memory, the centre also houses a memorial dedicated to those who died in the battle. The museum has two tours, one that lasts for an hour and is suited for those who want a quick visit, while the other is around two to three hours long.

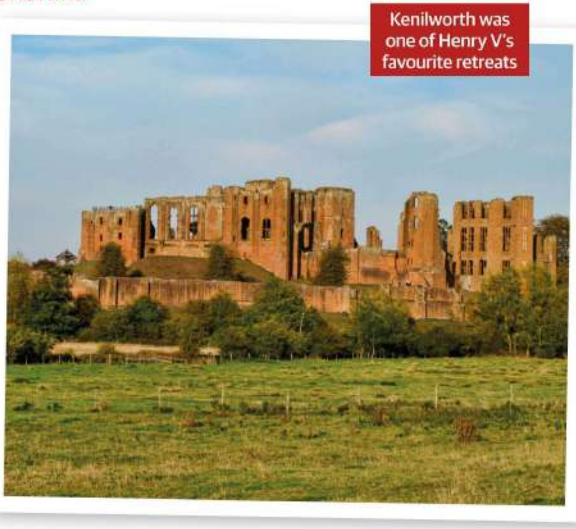
*Open all year round from 10am-5:30pm, closed on Tuesdays. An average adult ticket is €9 and concessions are available. azincourt1415.com*



A look inside the 'Azincourt 1415' centre

### ② KENILWORTH CASTLE

KENILWORTH, WARWICKSHIRE


Kenilworth was one of Henry V's favourite retreats

Kenilworth Castle has witnessed 900 years of history, including the Hundred Years' War. The conflict led to increasing fears in England that the French would invade, and as a result a number of castles were built throughout the country, helped by the fact that many of the commanders made a lot of money during their campaigns. Kenilworth was an existing fortress when it was transformed into a palace by John of Gaunt, a son of King Edward III, in the 14th century. It is even said that King Henry V was staying at Kenilworth in early 1415 when he received a gift of tennis balls from the Dauphin of France, mocking him as a young man whose time would be better spent playing rather than going to war, leading to Henry's decision to launch the Agincourt campaign. Although the castle is now in ruins, it's still a fascinating historical site that's worth exploring.

*Open at weekends between 10am-4pm. An average adult ticket is £13.90 including a donation. www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/kenilworth-castle/*

The Château de Chinon is a stunning piece of medieval architecture

## 3 CHÂTEAU DE CHINON

### CHINON, LOIRE VALLEY

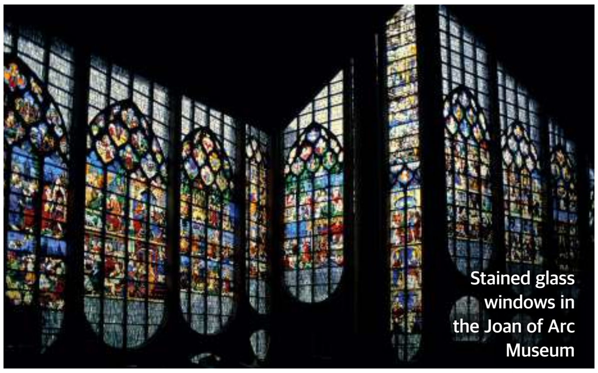
The Château de Chinon, a former royal fortress located high on the bank of the Vienne River, was the residence of King Charles VII of France. In 1429, Joan of Arc arrived at the château to meet Charles after she experienced divine visions that told her to help him reclaim the French throne and expel the English from France. Charles famously disguised himself as a courtier to test Joan but she recognised him instantly. She asked for an army to relieve the siege of Orléans and Charles granted her request, with Joan securing victory in just nine days. The château underwent restoration during the early 2000s and is now a popular tourist attraction in the region. Visitors will get to see the royal quarters, which houses exhibitions such as the history of the fortress and the archaeological collection, featuring artefacts that have been discovered through excavations of the site. Of course, there are two rooms dedicated to Joan of Arc, filled with iconography connected to her, and Charles' chambers include reconstructions of his furnishings. There is a film that gives visitors an opportunity to look at the history of the château through the eyes of the key figures who lived there, as well as plenty of interactive activities for children, including a treasure hunt.

*9am-6pm daily except Wednesdays and Sundays, by guided tour only*

## 4 JOAN OF ARC MUSEUM

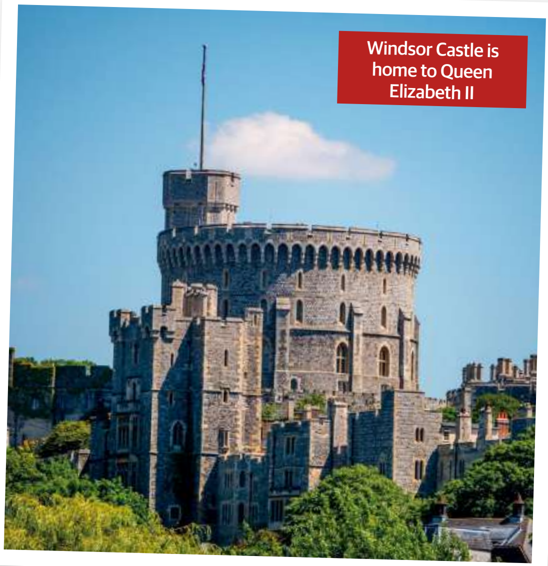
### ROUEN, NORMANDY

The Joan of Arc Museum has two aims: to help people discover Joan's life and to examine the myths about her that have developed over the last five centuries, creating an enduring legacy that can still be seen in today's modern media. It is located in the Archbishop's Palace in Rouen, where Joan was sentenced to death for heresy in 1431, and where the retrial that exonerated her was held in 1456. Unlike typical museums with objects on display, the Joan of Arc museum offers an interactive journey that dives into her remarkable story, including an immersive experience that gives visitors the opportunity to become a witness and participant in Joan's second trial. It's filled with 3D maps, projections and screens, and it's possible to explore the site through either a self-guided or a guided tour, depending on your preference.



Stained glass windows in the Joan of Arc Museum

*Open Tues-Sun, 10am-7pm. An average adult ticket is €10.50 and concessions are available. historial-jeannedarc.fr/en/*



Windsor Castle is home to Queen Elizabeth II

## 5 WINDSOR CASTLE

### WINDSOR, BERKSHIRE

The oldest and largest inhabited castle in the world, Windsor Castle has a fascinating history in association with the Hundred Years' War. It was largely rebuilt by King Edward III, who campaigned heavily in France, between 1357 and 1377, with these campaigns helping to fund the transformation of the castle into a Gothic style, which cost £50,000. In 1348 Edward famously founded the Order of the Garter with Windsor as the seat, and the ceremony for the Order is still held at the castle today. On top of this, King John II of France was actually held prisoner at Windsor Castle along with his son after they were captured at the Battle of Poitiers in 1356. Among the various highlights at Windsor are the State Apartments, the Semi-State Rooms, the Castle Precincts and the Moat Room, which houses a bronze model of the castle as it looked in 1377. The Undercroft, the castle's main cellar and larder during the 14th century, is one of the few remaining parts of Edward's renovations to still survive today. Visitors should also take the time to explore St George's Chapel, where ten monarchs are buried, including King Henry VI - the last English king to rule during the Hundred Years War - who was also born at the castle.

*Open Thurs-Mon, 10am-5:15pm, last admission 4pm. An average adult ticket is £23.50 and concessions are available. www.rct.uk/visit/windsor-castle*

All images: © Alamy

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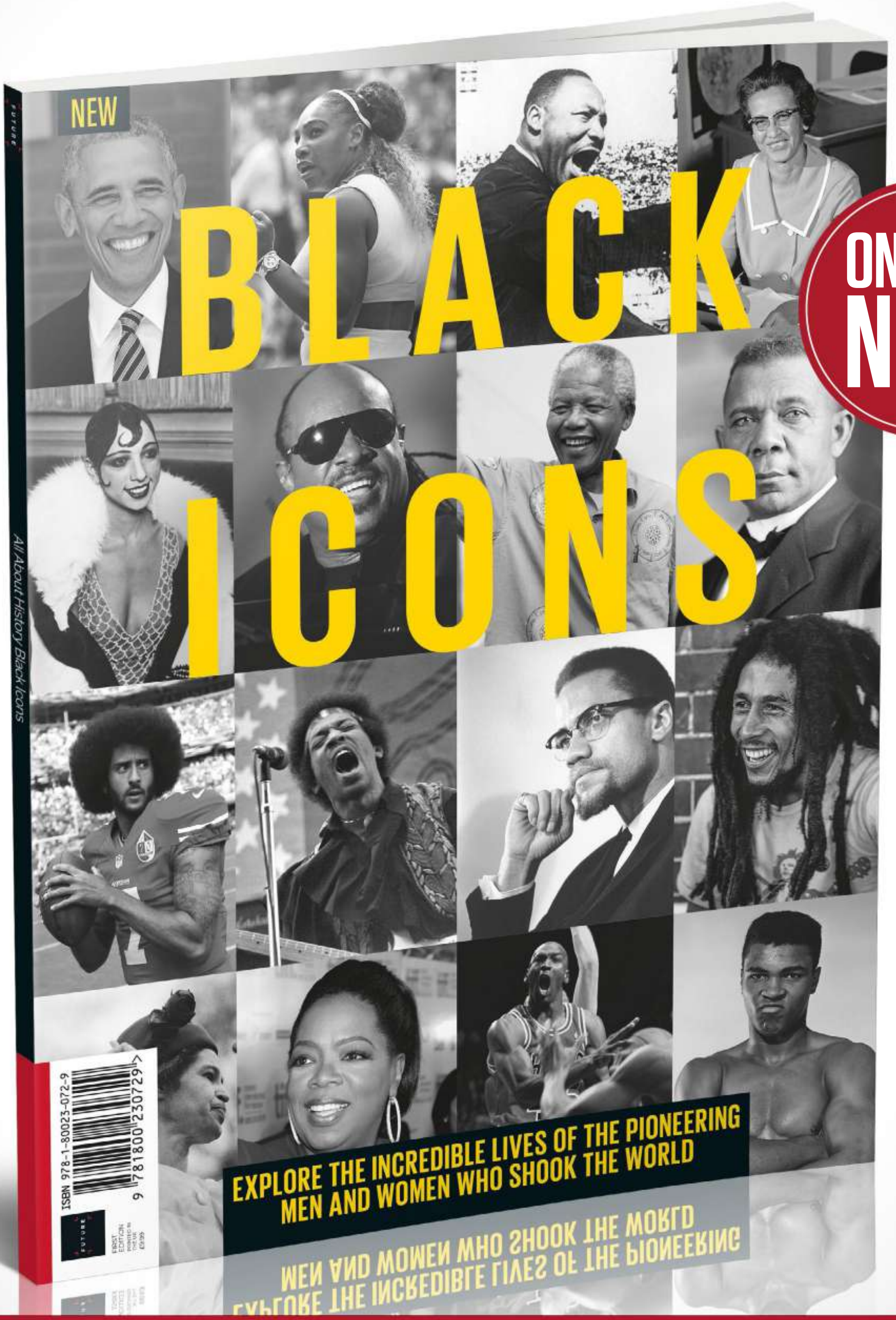
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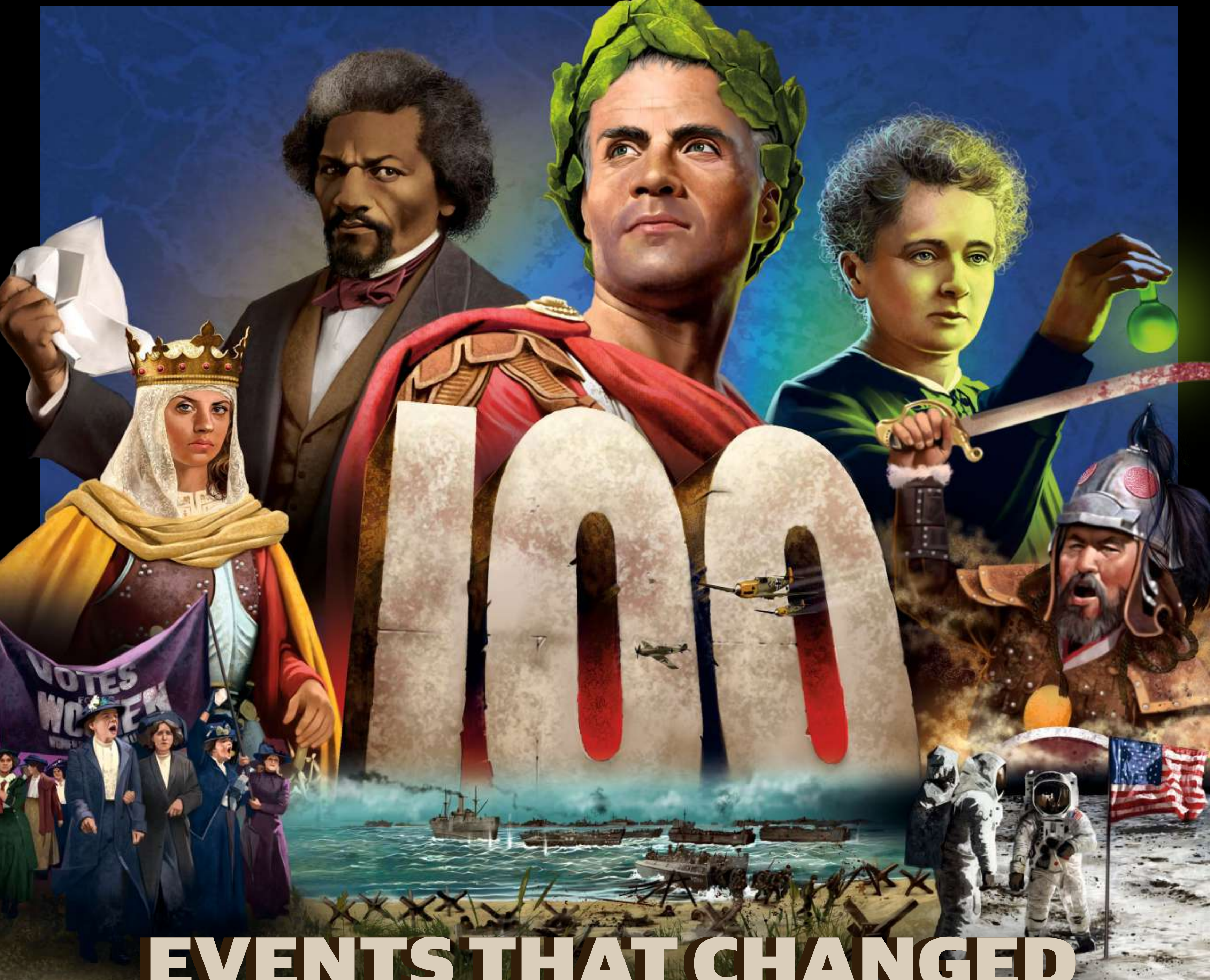


# 100 EVENTS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

Discover the moments that impacted the course of history forever

When **All About History** launched in 2013 we set out our stall with a list of 50 moments that changed the world. It was our statement of principles as much as anything else, letting you know who we were going to be. Over seven years later, to mark our 100th issue we wanted to revisit this concept and make a new statement. In this list you'll likely find some entries you expected and hopefully some you didn't but will appreciate, and there's likely plenty that you thought would appear but do not. Alas, even with 100 slots to fill there isn't enough room to include every event that's worthy of discussion. So we humbly present our selections and invite you to extend it with more of you own. Let us know about them!

**Have an event you think we missed? Reach out and advocate for yours**

@AboutHistoryMag AllAboutHistory allaboutthistorymagazine

Illustration by: Joe Cummings

# SPUTNIK LAUNCHED

**4 October 1957, *Baikonur, Kazakhstan***

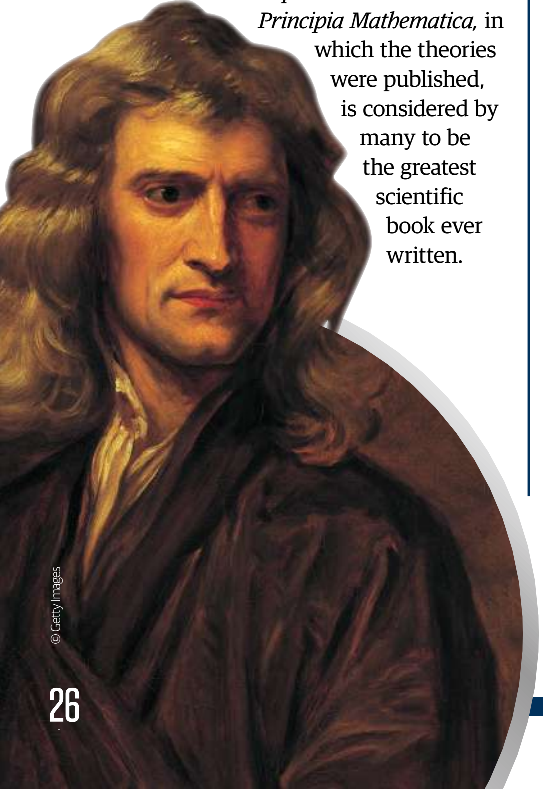
On 4 October 1957, the Soviet Union successfully launched the first artificial satellite into space. Weighing 83.6kg and measuring 56cm in diameter, the satellite was perhaps something of a visual disappointment. Nonetheless, the launch was an unprecedented success and ushered in the age of the space race, as both the USSR and the USA rushed for greater technological advances concerning space travel. Taking 96 minutes to orbit Earth, the satellite remained in orbit until 4 January 1958. The announcement of Sputnik's launch was made in the Russian newspaper *Pravda*, which stated: "Artificial earth satellites will pave the way to interplanetary travel and, apparently our contemporaries will witness how the freed and conscientious labour of the people of the new socialist society makes the most daring dreams of mankind a reality."

© Getty Images

## SIR ISAAC NEWTON DEFINES GRAVITY

**c.1665, *UK***

Although the famous story of an apple hitting the young man on the head and inspiring his theory is most likely a myth, Newton's discovery of gravity was integral in the developing field of physics. His *Philosophiae Naturalis Principia Mathematica*, in which the theories were published, is considered by many to be the greatest scientific book ever written.



© Getty Images

Image source: wiki/ Library of Congress

## FIRST POWERED FLIGHT

**17 December 1903, *North Carolina, USA***

When Wilbur and Orville Wright achieved the first powered flight after years of experimenting with gliders they could not have imagined the world they would usher in. The explosion of aviation technology throughout World War I and the development of commercial aviation has connected the globe like never before.

## FIRST COINS AS CURRENCY

**c.600 BCE, *Lydia (modern Turkey)***

© Alamy

When the Lydians began using coins as currency they fundamentally changed how people thought about value. Now, tokens had value bestowed upon them by the authority of the ruling government, standardising costs and revolutionising trade. Banking and wealth no longer had to be tied to the tradable goods alone.

## FIRST PRODUCTION LINE

**1 December 1913, *Detroit, USA***

On 1 December 1913, automobile pioneer Henry Ford unveiled the first moving assembly line, able to construct an entire vehicle. The decision was built around the desire to flood the market with his Model T vehicle and increase the productivity of his factories. While this invention changed industry, it also ushered in the age of the motor car as Ford's continuing innovation meant that soon, everybody wanted (and could afford) one.

## FIRST AUTOMOBILE PATENTED

**29 January 1886, *Mannheim, Germany***

While motorised vehicles had been around for several years, the first internal combustion engine automobile as we would recognise it today was the three-wheeled Motorwagen invented by Karl Benz. Its proof of concept for motorised carriages was the precursor to mechanised travel for all.

Image source: wiki/zeno.org

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## FIRST BBC BROADCAST

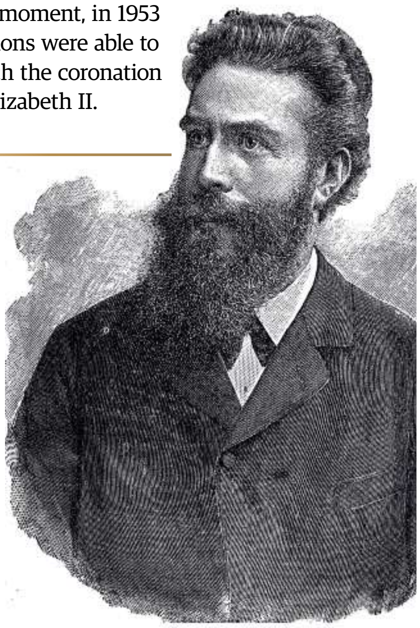
### 2 November 1936, *London, UK*

On 2 November 1936 the British Broadcasting Corporation made its very first broadcast, from Alexandra Palace in London. Television had been in development for some years prior to this and an experimental service had been set up in 1929. However, the BBC broadcast ushered in an institution that continues to this day. It also began to demonstrate to the world the possibilities of a national television service. Thanks to this moment, in 1953 millions were able to watch the coronation of Elizabeth II.

## WILHELM ROENTGEN DISCOVERS X-RAYS

### 8 November 1895, *Germany*

In 1895 Wilhelm Roentgen discovered X-rays, and the effects on the medical profession were immediate. Within a few years, discoveries were being made regarding the effects of the rays on cancers and the treatment of skin problems, and were being introduced in clinics to visually show bone fractures. Today, X-rays are widely used in health services throughout the world and are instrumental in doctors' ability to diagnose and treat medical conditions.

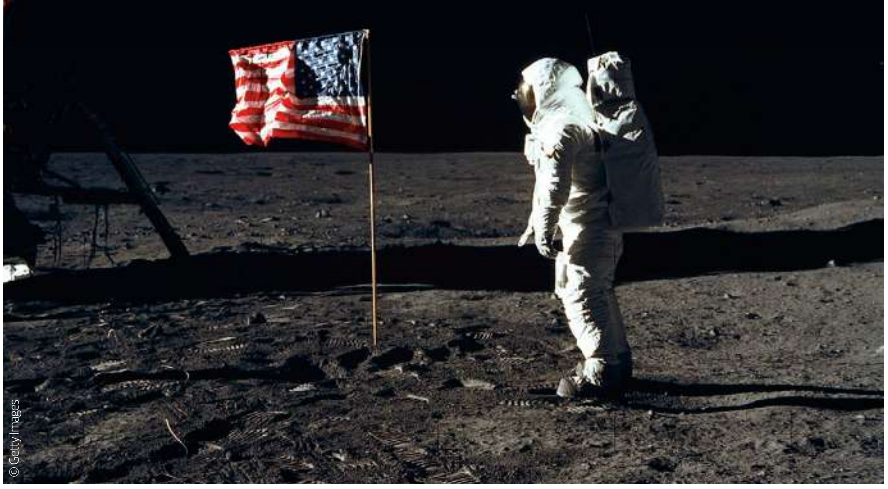


© Getty Images

## HUMANITY LANDS ON THE MOON

### 20 July 1969

On 16 July 1969, NASA's Apollo 11 containing astronauts Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins and Buzz Aldrin launched. The Moon landing four days later led to an explosion of interest in space research, with further Apollo missions launching over successive years. Among the many impacts of the Moon landing was the ability to bring samples back. In particular, this furthered our geological understanding of the Moon, proving both it and the Earth came from the same body.



© Getty Images

## FIRST PHONE CALL

### 10 March 1876, *Boston, USA*

On 10 March 1876, 29-year-old Alexander Graham Bell made history when he rang his assistant and briefly instructed him to: "Come here, I want to see you." It was the first telephone call, made only three days after the publication of his patent. A year later, Bell set up a telephone company with the intention of improving and perfecting his invention, as well as installing wires across the United States. The impact of Bell's device was vast and affected many areas, from businesses (whose owners would previously have to locate their premises near close contacts) to war. Indeed, during World War I telephone and telegraph wires ran along the trenches and allowed real-time conversations with command. Today we now have personal phones equipped with wireless capability and a variety of other applications that make us reachable, no matter where we are.

© Alamy

Image source: wiki/ Daderot

## FIRST RADIO SHOW

### 24 December 1906, *Massachusetts*

On Christmas Eve 1906, inventor Reginald Fessenden broadcast the first programme of music and voice over the radio. The broadcast began at 9pm and included readings of verse and a phonograph recording of Handel's *Largo*. He followed this with a similar New Year's Eve programme, picked up by boats in the West Indies. While numerous individuals are credited with exploring the possibilities of radio, Fessenden's contributions were some of the first to further explore overseas broadcasts.

## THE FIRST CAPTURED PHOTOGRAPH

### c.1826-7, *France*

Inventor Joseph Nicéphore Niépce created the world's oldest surviving photograph using a camera obscura and heliography, a technique that he developed. His success was followed by a long line of advancements over the next two centuries, from the daguerreotype process to digital photography, enabling us to capture images in real time. Thanks to photography, moments could be documented, copied and widely distributed, changing the way we see the world forever.

Image source: wiki/ Jonnychiwa

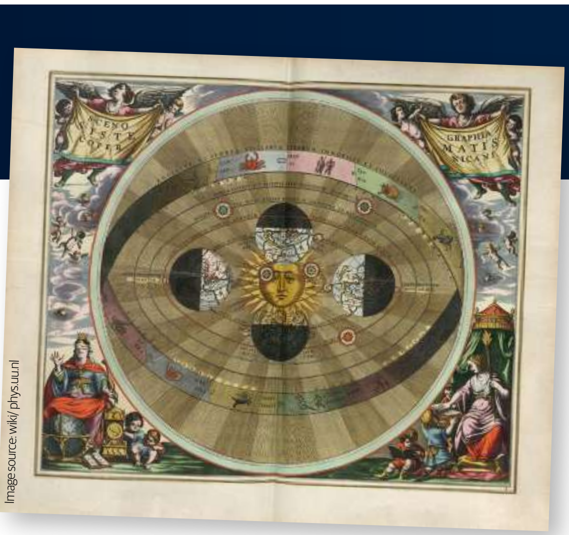


Image source: wiki/ phys.uu.nl

## COPERNICUS PUBLISHES HIS HELIOCENTRIC THEORY

### 1543, *Frombork, Poland*

Mathematician and astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus published his book *On the Revolutions of the Heavenly Spheres*, revealing his heliocentric theory, an astronomical model that placed the Sun at the centre of the universe. The book, published just before his death, triggered the Copernican Revolution that saw scholars move away from the traditional Ptolemaic model – with Earth at the centre – to the heliocentric one, transforming the way the universe was understood.

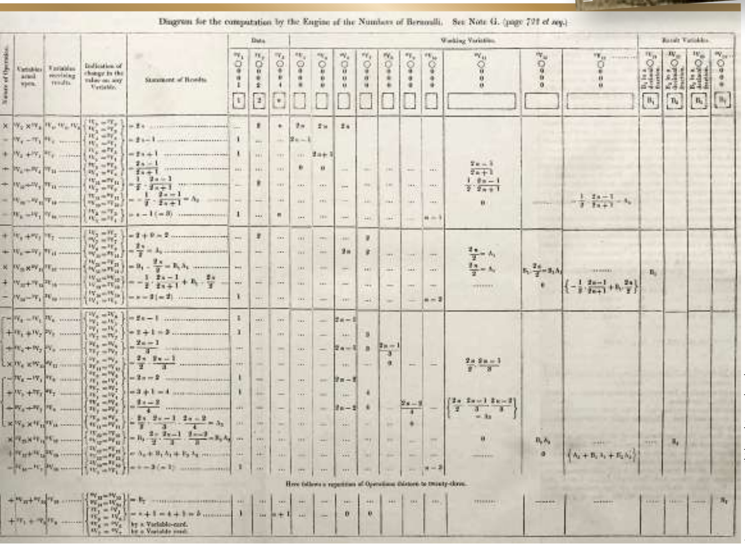


Diagram for the computation by the Engine of the Numbers of Bernoulli. See Note G. (page 722 et seq.)

Image source: wiki/ sophiararebooks.com

## THE FIRST COMPUTER PROGRAMME

### 1843, *England*

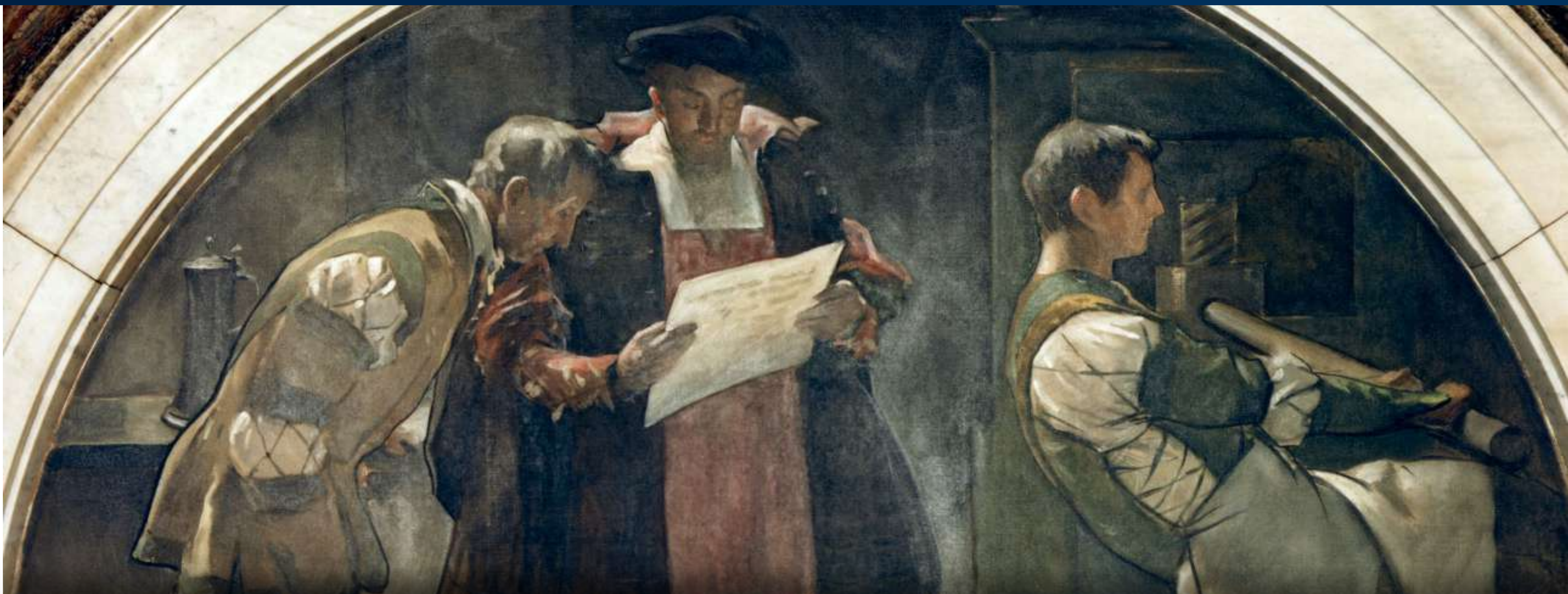
The Analytical Engine, designed by mathematician and engineer Charles Babbage, was the first general-purpose programmable computer. It was never fully built but nevertheless Ada Lovelace, often cited as the first computer programmer, understood the full potential of the machine. She believed that it could do more than just mathematical calculations and even suggested that it could be used to compose music. A true visionary, in 1843 she wrote many algorithms for the Engine while translating a French paper about it, including an algorithm for calculating Bernoulli numbers, which is regarded as the world's first computer programme.

## THE INVENTION OF WRITING

### c.3,400 BCE, *Mesopotamia*

© Getty Images

Something as simple as the invention of writing is a challenging thing to pin down, as you might imagine. It's believed that written script, distinct from pictorial language, was developed independently in the Near East, China and Mesoamerica at different times, but the earliest known is that of Sumer in Mesopotamia. Their cuneiform script evolved from their use of tokens and images as more and more complex information needed to be conveyed. At first accounting was the primary use for cuneiform, but funeral rights and stories of the afterlife also became of interest. Ultimately the written word revolutionised the way people collected, saved and shared information.



© Getty Images

## MASS PRINTING BEGINS

**1450, *Mainz, Germany***

Johannes Gutenberg was a 15th century German craftsman, credited with the creation of the first moveable printing press. It was this device that would be used to produce the famous *Gutenberg Bible* - 200 copies were printed, some 48 of which are still in existence. Yet the celebrated Bibles were just a small part of the printing press's legacy. Soon printers began to send pamphlets to sailors that would then be copied by other printers and read aloud in public houses, in an early form of news. The press also allowed the mass printing of works in a cheap and timely manner. This allowed many rare classical texts, which previously had existed as a single handwritten copy, to be saved for prosperity. It also allowed radical voices a medium through which to express their views. Despite the invention of the internet, printing is still an integral part of society, without which the magazine you hold in your hands could not have been produced.

© Alamy

## INVENTION OF THE COMPASS

**c.2nd century BCE, *China***

Although it is believed that the magnetic compass was invented during the Han dynasty, it was first used for navigation during the Song dynasty, between the 11th and 12th centuries. A reliable and critical tool for navigating uncharted waters, compasses opened up the world for exploration and the subsequent development of global trade. An instrument still widely used today, the compass transformed our knowledge and understanding of Earth.

## THE BIRTH OF ANTIBIOTIC MEDICINE

**1928, *London, England***

Scottish physician and scientist Alexander Fleming returned from holiday to find that his petri dishes of staphylococcus bacteria were contaminated with mould. He realised that the mould - penicillin - had killed the bacteria, an accidental discovery that led to the development of the world's first antibiotic. Penicillin was first used to treat patients with bacterial infections in 1942, and three years later Fleming was awarded the Nobel Prize.

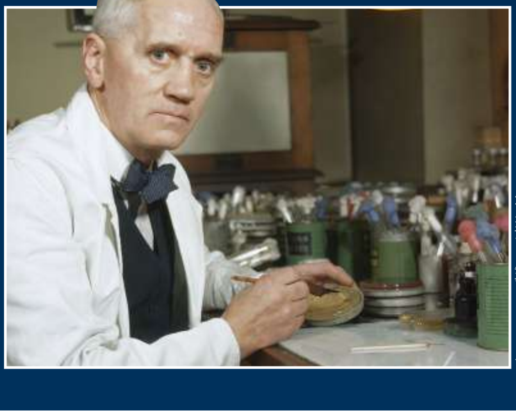


Image source: wiki/Imperial War Museum

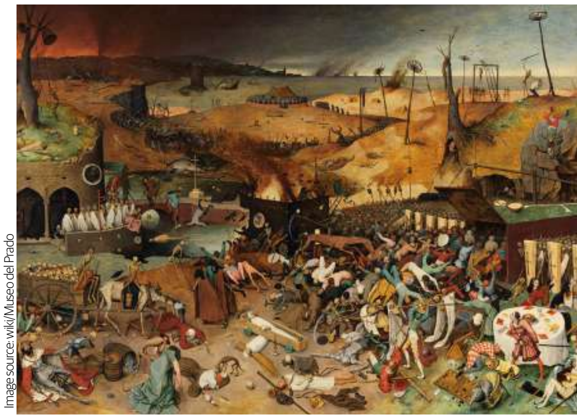


Image source: wiki/Museo del Prado

## BLACK DEATH BEGINS TO RECEDE

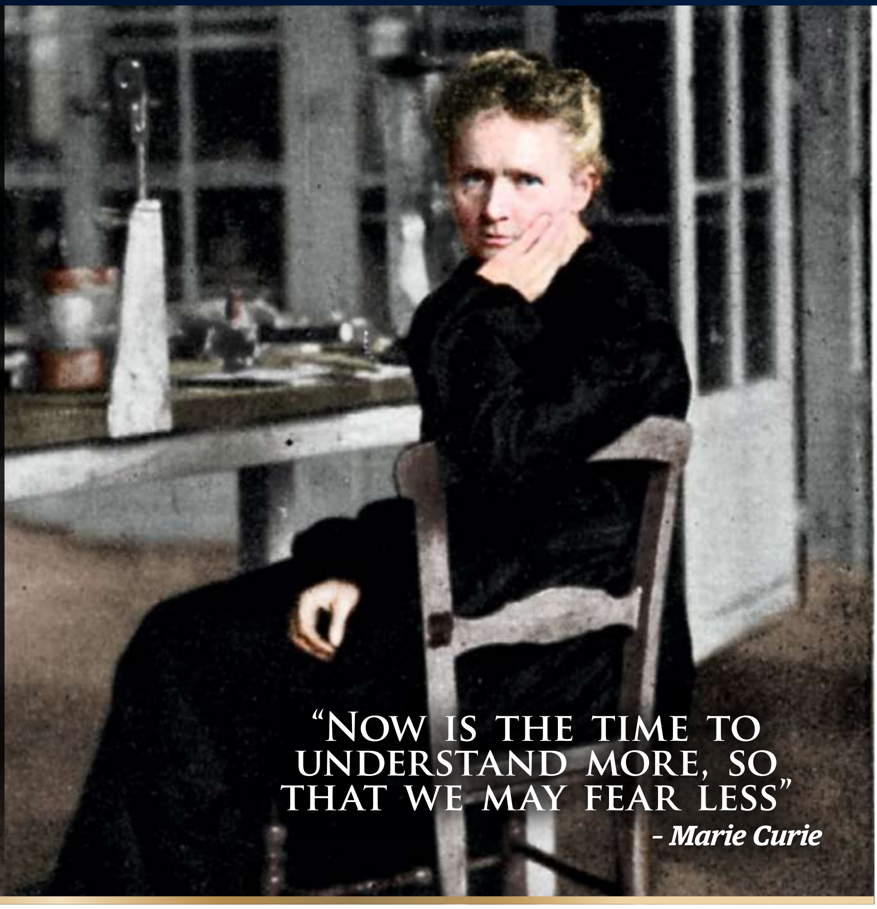
**1351, *Europe***

From 1347 to 1352, the Black Death swept through Europe, killing millions of people throughout the continent. The outbreak of the plague fundamentally altered medieval life as it triggered massive economic, religious, political and social change. For example, peasants who had survived were able to negotiate for better pay due to the higher demand for labour, and it has also been argued the Black Death contributed to the end of feudalism.

# MARIE CURIE DISCOVERS RADIUM

**21 December 1898, *Paris, France***

Devoting her life to scientific research, physicist and chemist Marie Curie worked alongside her husband, Pierre, investigating radioactivity. In June 1898, while conducting research into the mineral of pitchblende, made of around 70% uranium, the couple discovered a new element - polonium - which they named in honour of Marie's native country, Poland. Six months later, they discovered a second element, radium. After uncovering the existence of radium, the Curies successfully isolated radioactive radium salts in 1902, and the following year they were awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics for their work on radioactivity, a prize they shared with fellow physicist Henri Becquerel. The first woman to win a Nobel Prize, Curie was awarded a second Nobel Prize in 1911, this time for chemistry, for her discovery of polonium and radium. Thanks to her discoveries, Curie paved the way for finding treatments for cancer as well as the development of accurate X-ray machines.



> "NOW IS THE TIME TO UNDERSTAND MORE, SO THAT WE MAY FEAR LESS"
>
> ***- Marie Curie***

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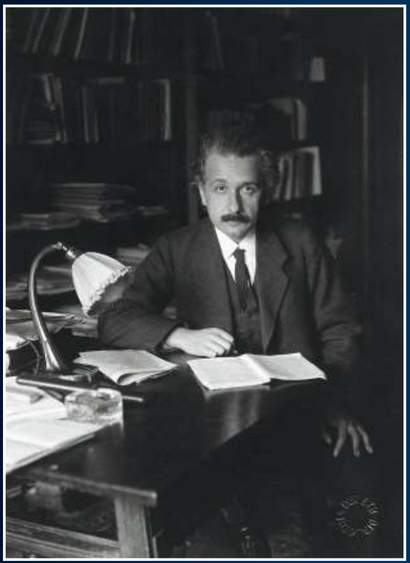


Image source: wiki/ETH-Archiv

# EINSTEIN DETERMINES THE LAWS OF PHYSICS

**26 September 1905, *Switzerland and Germany***

Theoretical physicist Albert Einstein revolutionized our understanding of time, space, gravity, mass and the universe with his special and general theories of relativity. Among his discoveries, he concluded that time does pass at the same rate for everyone and that gravity is caused by a warping of space and time.

# FIRST TELEGRAPH SENT

**21 October 1832, *Saint Petersburg, Russia***

In 1832 Russian electrical engineer Pavel Schilling invented an early form of telegraph. He proposed to Tsar Nicholas I the building of a telegraph line between the Peterhof Palace and a naval base. Unfortunately, Schilling died and the project was cancelled. Schilling's work was among the first in transmitting signals and was later developed by other inventors.

# INVENTION OF THE STEAM ENGINE

**1698, *England***

Engineer Thomas Savery patented his first steam pump - also referred to as a steam 'engine' - which used steam to raise water when needed, for example to pump water out of mines. Later on, improved versions powered factory machines during the Industrial Revolution and contributed to the first steam-powered locomotive, changing transportation forever.

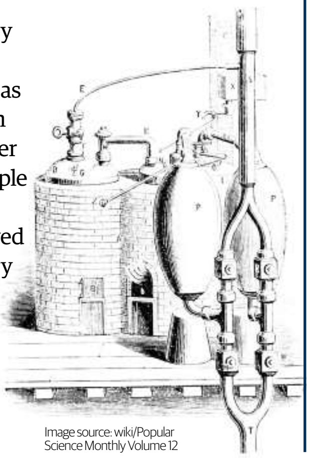


Image source: wiki/Popular Science Monthly Volume 12

# DATA TRANSFER PAVES WAY FOR THE INTERNET

**5 May 1974, *USA***

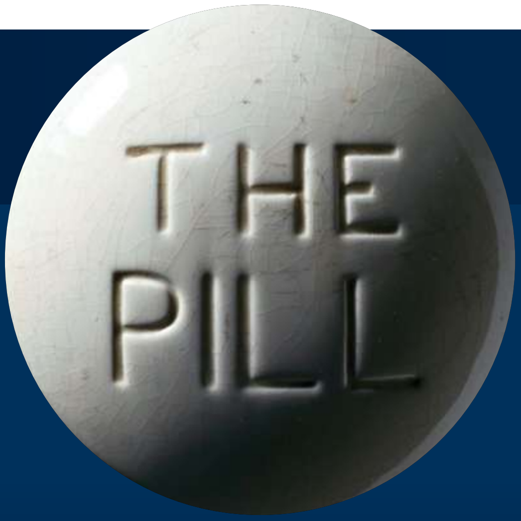
© Alamy

Vint Cerf and Bob Kahn are often called the 'fathers of the internet', and with good reason. Their data transfer system allowing different networks of computers to communicate with each other, called the Transmission Control Protocol, paved the way for a global communications network.

# INVENTION OF THE TURING MACHINE

**1936, *England***

The Turing Machine is a hypothetical computing device that can read and write data on an infinite piece of tape. The machine can run any algorithm and is considered to be the origin of modern computing. It was invented by mathematician Alan Turing, who subsequently became known as the father of computer science.



## ADOPTION OF THE PILL

**23 June 1960, *USA***

The lasting impact of the contraceptive pill was perhaps even more social than it was medical. Developed by Dr Gregory Pincus (inspired by a meeting with activist Margaret Sanger) the pill allowed women to have direct control over their own bodies in a way that other contraceptives had not allowed. The significance of this socially was that the pill allowed women to make more confident plans about how and when they wanted to have a family, opening up space for pursuing higher education and careers in a way that would have been more precarious in the past. It also coincided with the 'swinging sixties' and became even more popular during the women's movement of the 1970s.

Image source: wiki/Wellcome Collection

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## DOUBLE HELIX DNA DISCOVERED

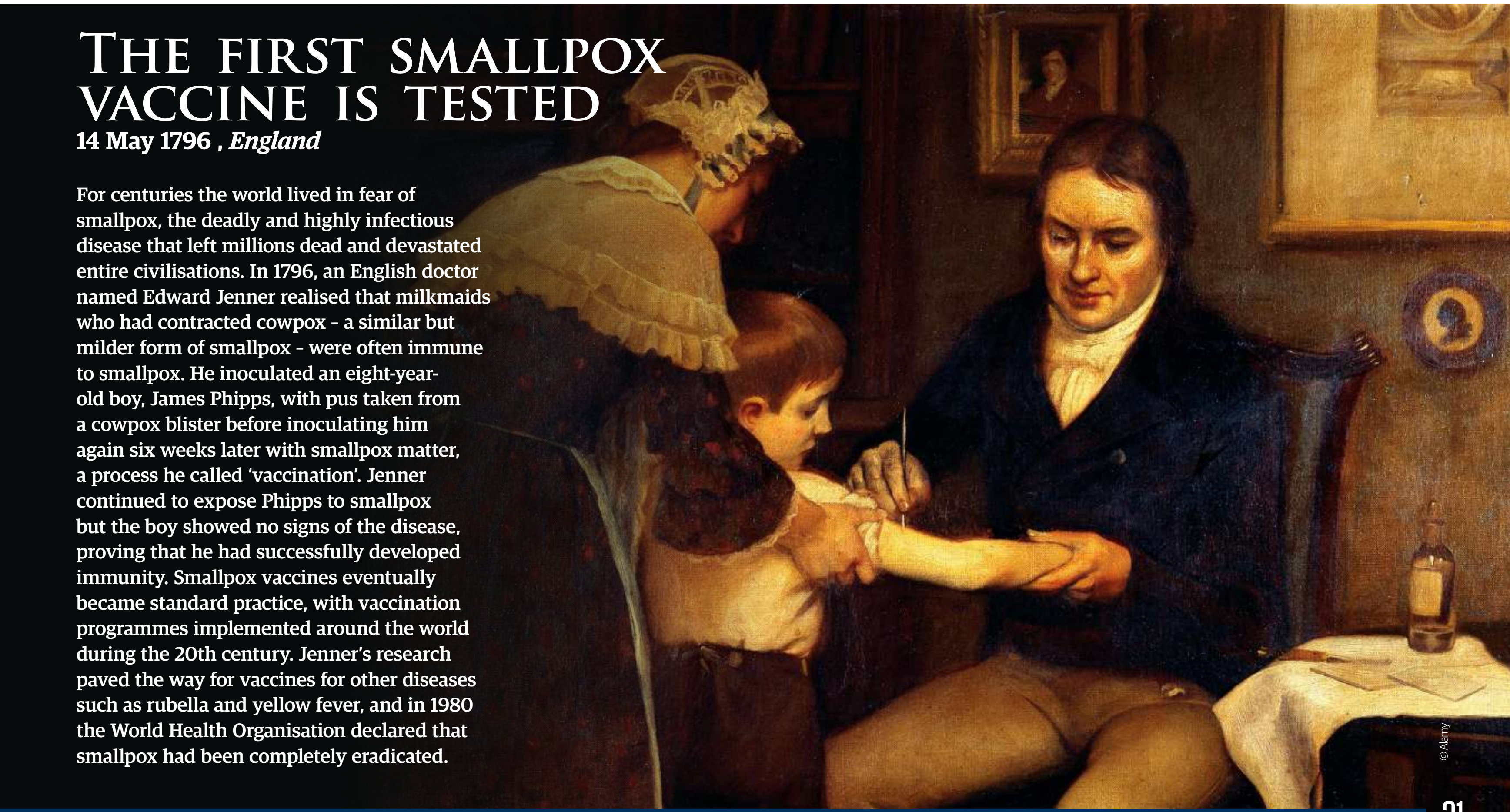
**25 April 1953, *Cambridge, UK***

Based on the findings of Maurice Wilkins and Rosalind Franklin at King's College London, Francis Crick and James Watson (left) published their analysis of DNA, the molecule that contains the inherited information of cells, in science journal *Nature* in April 1953. The groundbreaking research identified how biological information is passed from parents to child, which in turn improved our understanding of things like hereditary disease. The core of this discovery was the double helix structure of DNA that helped to explain how it replicates and shares information. It was so elegant an explanation that the discovery is sometimes called the '*Mona Lisa* of science'.

## THE FIRST SMALLPOX VACCINE IS TESTED

**14 May 1796 , *England***

For centuries the world lived in fear of smallpox, the deadly and highly infectious disease that left millions dead and devastated entire civilisations. In 1796, an English doctor named Edward Jenner realised that milkmaids who had contracted cowpox - a similar but milder form of smallpox - were often immune to smallpox. He inoculated an eight-year-old boy, James Phipps, with pus taken from a cowpox blister before inoculating him again six weeks later with smallpox matter, a process he called 'vaccination'. Jenner continued to expose Phipps to smallpox but the boy showed no signs of the disease, proving that he had successfully developed immunity. Smallpox vaccines eventually became standard practice, with vaccination programmes implemented around the world during the 20th century. Jenner's research paved the way for vaccines for other diseases such as rubella and yellow fever, and in 1980 the World Health Organisation declared that smallpox had been completely eradicated.



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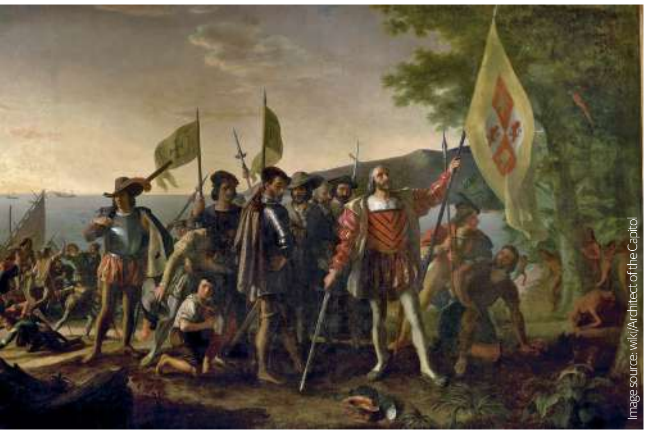


Image source: wiki/Architect of the Capitol

## COLUMBUS 'DISCOVERS' THE NEW WORLD

### October 12 1492, *Bahamas*

Sponsored by the Spanish monarchs Queen Isabella of Castile and King Ferdinand of Aragon, Christopher Columbus landed in the Bahamas in 1492. This and his subsequent voyages across the Atlantic led to the European exploration and colonisation of the Americas, as well as the exploitation of Native Americans.

Image source: wiki/Bibliothèque Nationale de France

## TREATY OF TORDESILLAS

### 7 June 1494, *Tordesillas, Spain*

Signed in 1494, the treaty divided the New World between Spain and Portugal while ignoring the millions of indigenous people who lived there. The subsequent colonisation and conquest of these lands had a devastating impact, with civilizations such as the Inca and the Aztec being wiped out.

## FALL OF WESTERN ROMAN EMPIRE

### 476 CE, *Rome, Italy*

In 476 CE Rome finally fell, its empire crumbling with it. This was due to numerous factors, including invasions by 'Barbarian' tribes, Christianity, overexpansion and an over-reliance on slave labour. There was an immediate breakdown in commerce and trade, but it also led to the rise of feudalism and the strengthening of Christianity.

## JAMESTOWN FOUNDED

### 13 May 1607, *Virginia, USA*

Although it nearly failed on many occasions, Jamestown was the first European colony in North America to hold out and establish a foothold for England in the New World. Without its survival other British settlers may not have travelled, the colonies may not have been established, and the USA itself would likely not have been formed.

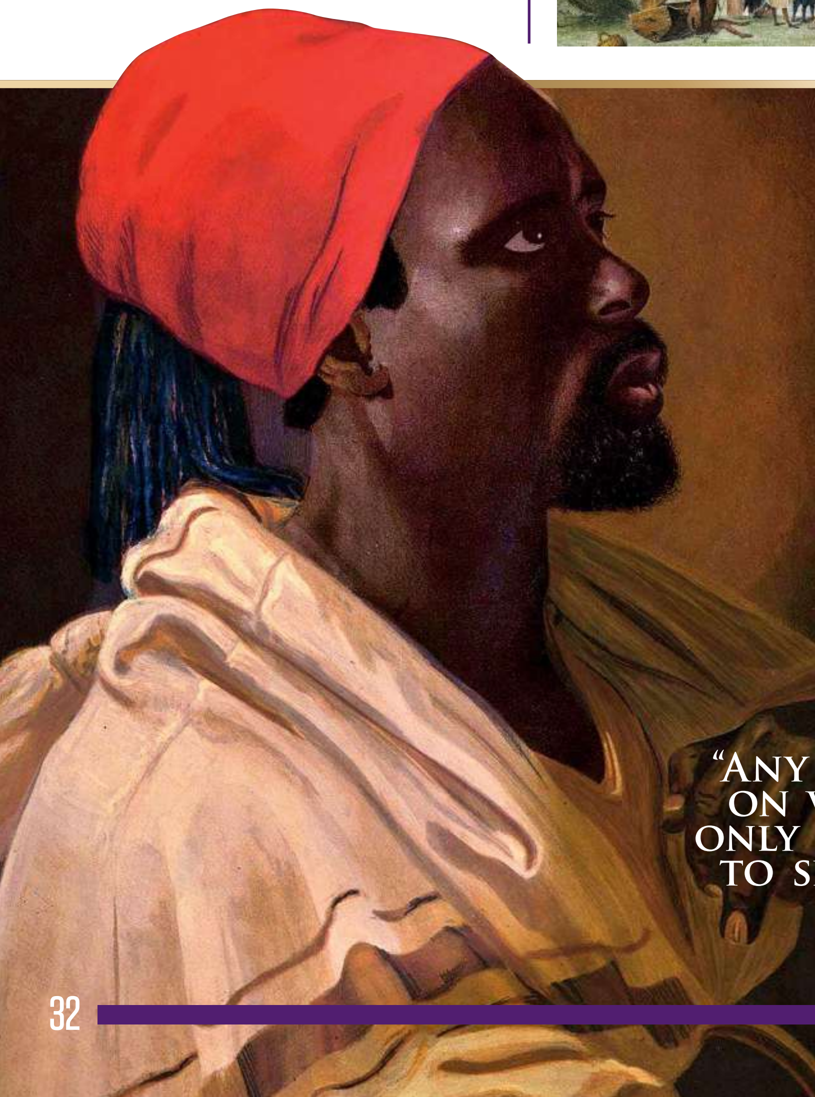
© Alamy

## AZTECS DESTROYED

### 1521, *Mexico*

Image source: wiki/Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art

Following his invasion of Cuba, conquistador Hernán Cortés landed in Mexico. After the kidnap and death of Aztec Emperor Montezuma, the city of Tenochtitlan was completely destroyed, resulting in the wiping out of the Aztecs. The Spanish colonised Mexico, annihilating much of the Mexicah's culture.


© Alamy

## HAITIAN REVOLUTION BEGINS

### 23 August 1791, *Haiti*

On 1 January 1804, when the Republic of Haiti issued its Declaration of Independence, it proclaimed proudly: "We have dared to be free, let us be thus by ourselves and for ourselves." Starting in 1791 and lasting for roughly 13 years, the Haitian Revolution was not just another in a series of revolutionary movements, it was the beginning of the end of the transatlantic slave trade and a rallying cry for abolitionists around the world.

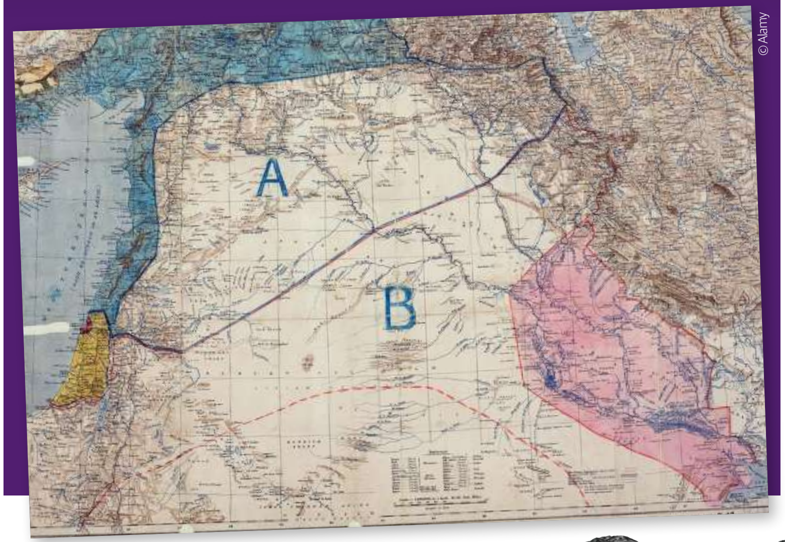
Led by a former slave, General Toussaint Louverture, the black population of what was then called Saint-Domingue was inspired by the revolution that had just taken place in France, the colonial power to whom they answered. Both France and Britain tried to quell this rebellion, but after bloody conflicts and massive losses on all sides the people of Haiti were victorious and established the very first country founded by emancipated enslaved people.

> "ANY AUTHORITY WHICH IS NOT FOUNDED ON VIRTUE AND HUMANITY, AND WHICH ONLY TENDS TO SUBJECT ONE'S FELLOW MAN TO SLAVERY, MUST COME TO AN END, AND THAT END IS YOURS"
> ***– Toussaint Louverture***

## SYKES-PICOT DIVIDES MIDDLE EAST

**19 May 1916, *Middle East***

In 1916, British civil servant Mark Sykes and French diplomat François Georges-Picot drafted the Asia Minor Agreement, which created the modern Middle East. The agreement split the Ottoman Empire's Arab provinces in two, area A under French Control and Area B under the command of the British. At 1920's San Remo Conference similar lines were agreed to and ultimately led to the modern borders of Iraq, Israel, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Palestinian territories. In 2016, Nawzad Hadi Mawlood, the governor of Iraq's Erbil province, told *The New Yorker* magazine: "Hundreds of thousands have been killed because of Sykes-Picot and all the problems it created."



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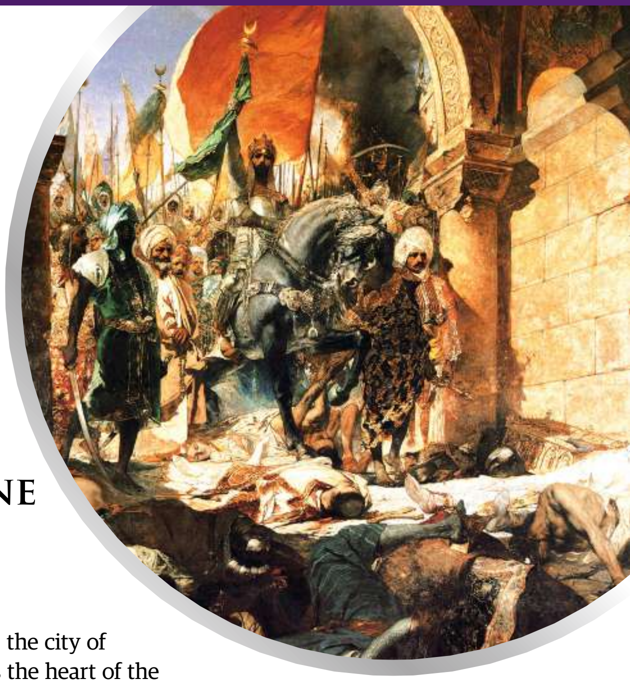


Image source: wiki/Art Renewel Centre Museum

## FALL OF BYZANTINE EMPIRE

**29 May 1453, *Constantinople***

Founded in 324 CE, the city of Constantinople was the heart of the Byzantine Empire for over 1,000 years. However in 1453 Mehmed II, Sultan of the Ottoman Empire, invaded and ransacked the city. While Christianity was allowed to survive under the guidance Gennadios II, the effect on the religion was vast. Aeneas Sylvius wrote to Pope Nicholas V and proclaimed that: "Your Holiness did what you could. No blame can be justly attached to you. But the ignorance of posterity will blame you when it hears that in your time Constantinople was lost." The destruction of the city signalled the end of the Eastern Roman Empire and symbolised the change between the ancient and medieval periods.

## BERLIN CONFERENCE BREAKS UP AFRICA

**1884-85, *Berlin, Germany***

At the Berlin Conference, Africa was divided up between the European powers and the United States. It was organised by the chancellor of Germany, Otto von Bismarck, after the scramble for territory created conflict between the European nations. The conference - which did not involve the African people despite it concerning their native land - legitimised and formalised the European colonisation of Africa, with nearly 90% of the territory claimed by 1900.

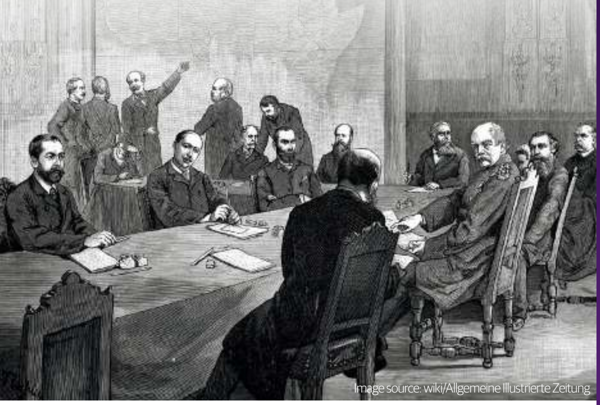
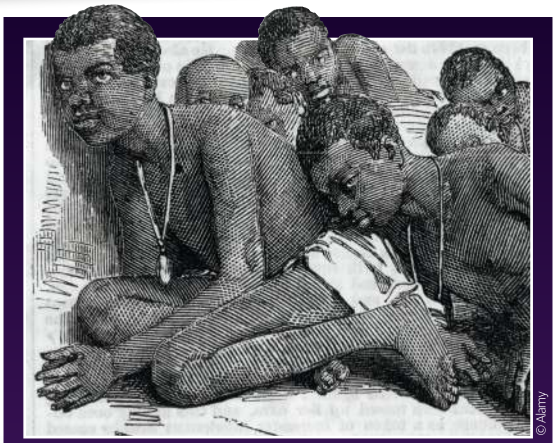


Image source: wiki/Allgemeine Illustrierte Zeitung



© Alamy

## TRANSATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE BEGINS

**22 January 1510, *Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic***

Enslaved Africans had been transported to the New World for some time, but the authorisation of King Ferdinand of Spain for enslaved people to be shipped to Santo Domingo was the beginning of the systemic apparatus of slavery through the 16th to 19th centuries. In that time around 10 million to 12 million Africans were forcibly taken across the Atlantic to the Americas.

## THE ACCESSION OF EMPEROR CHARLES V

**28 June 1519, *Frankfurt***

Charles V's election as Holy Roman Emperor in June 1519 followed a series of inheritances that saw him become ruler of the Netherlands, Austria, Burgundy, Germany, Italy and a unified Spain, along with its dominions in the Americas. His vast empire, known as 'the empire on which the sun never sets', changed the balance of power in 16th century Europe, which contributed to multiple conflicts in the West.

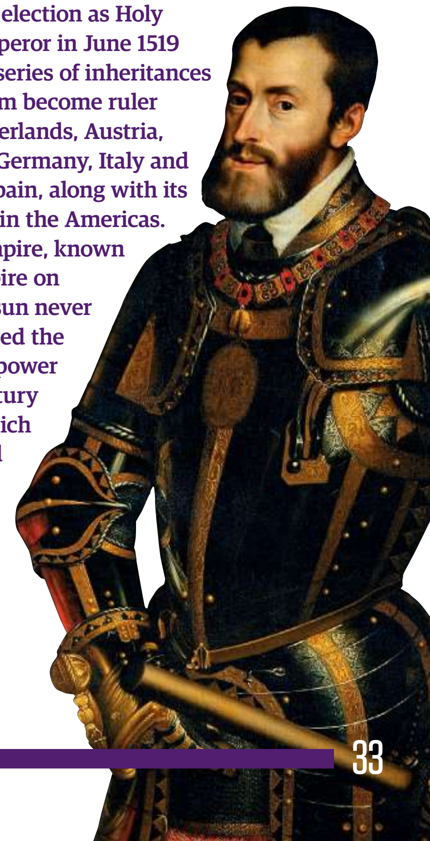


Image source: wiki/ museoeldprado

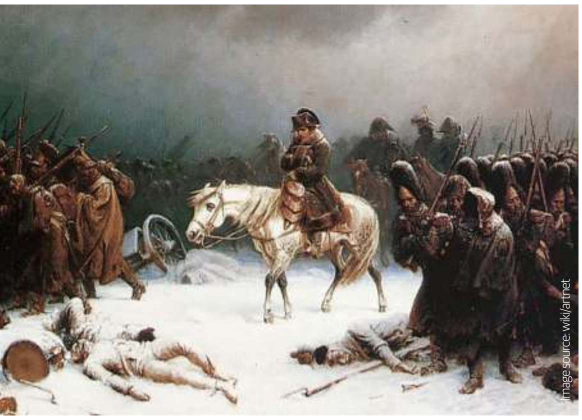


Image source: wiki/artnet

## Napoleon's retreat from Russia

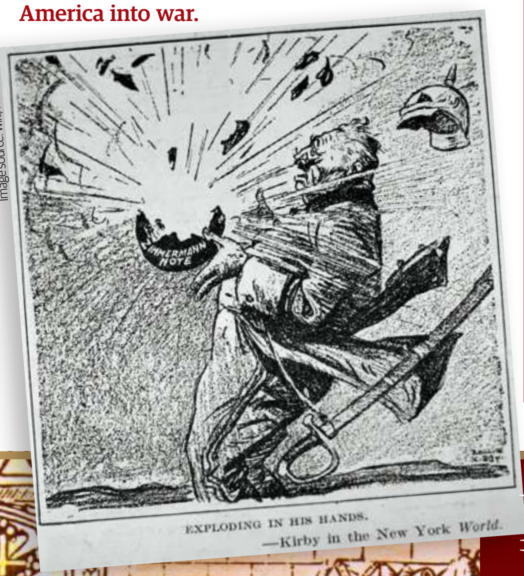
**19 October 1812, *Moscow, Russia***

An estimated 550,000 men crossed the Neman River in June of 1812. A few months later, only 22,000 returned. Napoleon's retreat after a disastrous invasion of Russia, despite having reached and captured Moscow, was the beginning of the end for the French emperor's rise. His Grand Armée depleted, his reputation dented, he could no longer continue his campaign that had been reshaping Europe.

## The Zimmerman Telegram

**16 January 1917, *Berlin, Germany***

**The United States didn't want to get involved in the Great War in Europe, but the Zimmerman Telegram changed everything. It was an invitation for the Mexican government to join Germany's side in return for US territory after the war. Intercepted by the British and flagged to the Americans, once it was out in the press it changed public opinion quickly. Alongside German submarine attacks, this telegram pushed America into war.**



EXPLODING IN HIS HANDS.
—Kirby in the New York World.

Image source: wiki/Rollin Kirby

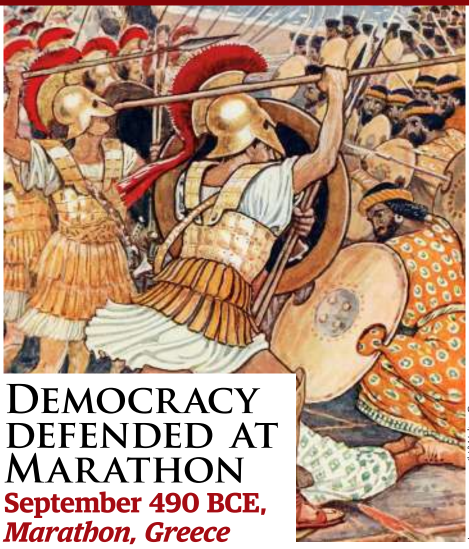
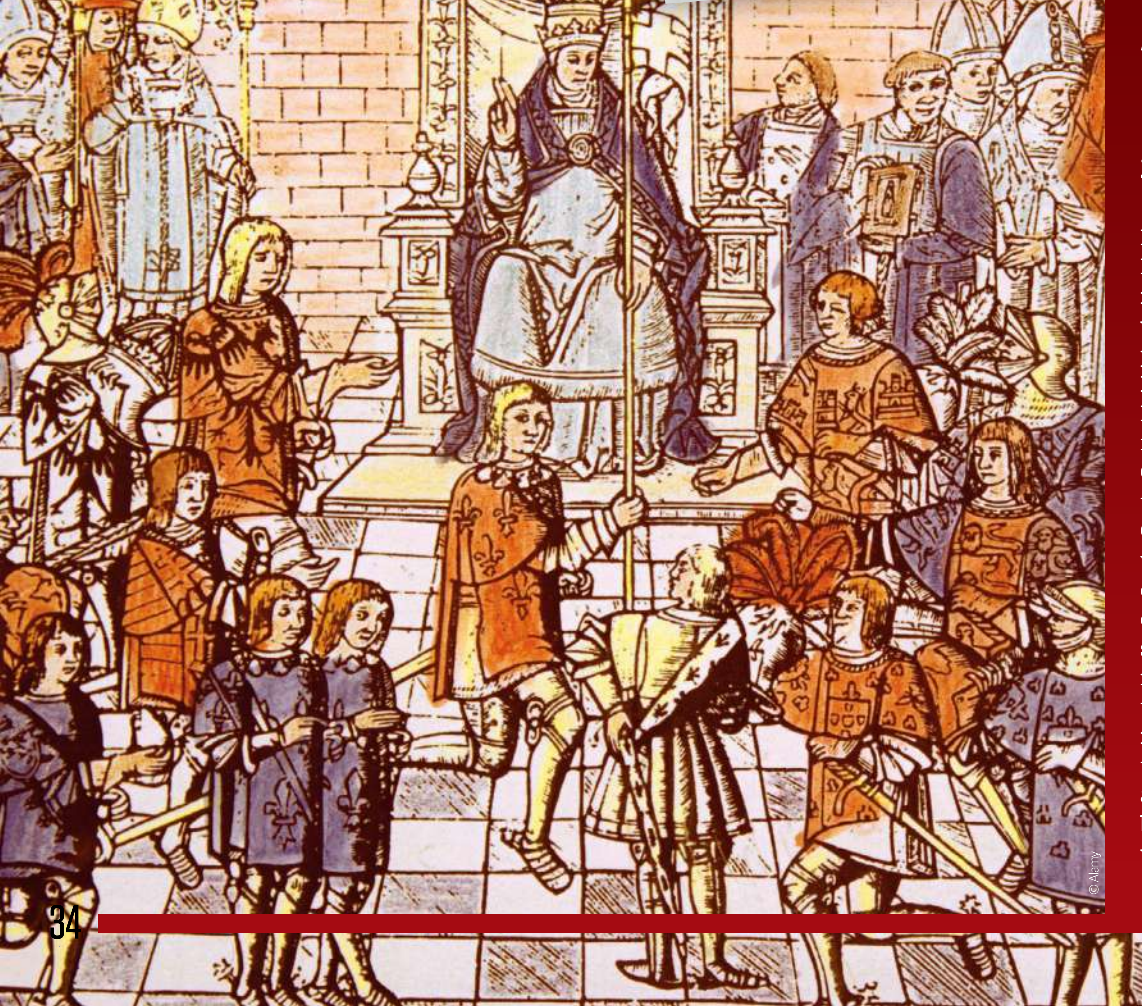


Image source: wiki/Walter Crane

## Democracy defended at Marathon

**September 490 BCE, *Marathon, Greece***

"The battle of Marathon, even as an event in English history, is more important than the battle of Hastings," British philosopher John Stuart Mill once stated. Why did he think so? It boils down to the Athenians who fought the battle against great odds, fighting for their relatively new form of government, a democracy. It would not be the last fight, but it became a symbol of civil society standing up to tyranny that inspired generations to come.



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## Pope Urban II launches the First Crusade

**27 November 1095 , *Clermont, France***

**In March 1095, Byzantine emperor Alexios I Komnenos appealed to Pope Urban II for help when the Muslim Seljuk Turks, who had captured Jerusalem seven years previously, advanced towards Constantinople. Determined to recapture Jerusalem and the Holy Land from its Islamic rulers, the pope famously gave a speech at the Council of Clermont calling on all Christians in Europe to take up arms against the Muslims. The First Crusade lasted seven years and Jerusalem was recaptured in 1099, with the Crusades continuing in the Holy Land for the next two centuries. Although they ultimately did not succeed, the Crusades left numerous legacies in Europe, such as improved trade and transportation, increased prestige and power for the papacy and the development of state taxation. However, the violence and conflict also had a lasting impact on the relationship between Western Europe and the Middle East, which arguably can still be felt today.**

# ASSASSINATION OF ARCHDUKE FERDINAND

**28 June 1914, *Sarajevo, Bosnia***

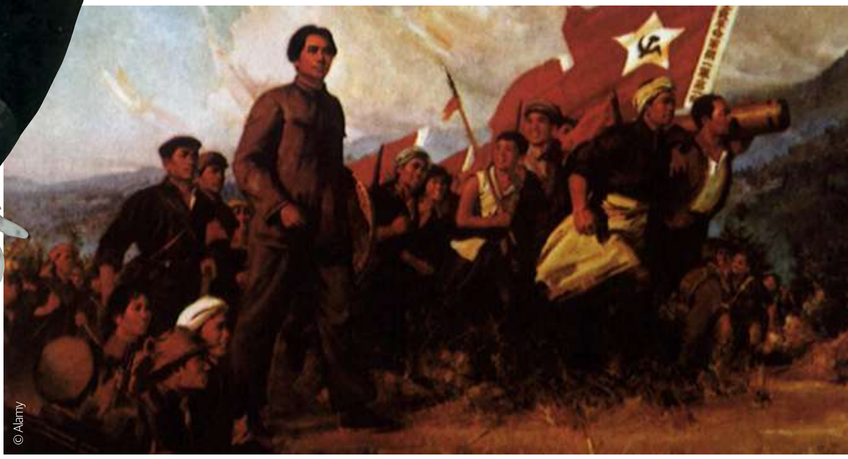
Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria was assassinated by a Bosnian Serb nationalist. As Austria-Hungary blamed Serbia (who was allied with Russia, France and Great Britain) they asked for the support of Germany. Soon war broke out and would continue until 1918. Although other factors (such as a rise of nationalism and a shortage of industrial resources) are important elements in the start of World War I, Ferdinand's killing is the most commonly cited cause. The global conflict was responsible for 20 million deaths and ushered in modern trench-based warfare.

Image source: wiki/Carl Pietzner

# THE LONG MARCH BEGINS

**16 October 1934, *Jiangxi, China***

The Long March was an important event in the formation of the People's Republic of China, the country that we know today. Civil war between the Chinese nationalists and communists had been ongoing since 1927. However when the communist forces became encircled, Mao Zedong marched the majority of his army through China for a year, arriving in Shaanxi the undisputed leader of the Communist Party. While it would not be until 1949 that Mao would be able to fully seize power, the Long March was an integral moment in his rise. An important player in Cold War politics, Communist China remains a key participant on the global stage. Speaking of the march, Mao stated: "It has announced to some 200 million people in 11 provinces that the road of the Red Army is their only road to liberation."



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# THE ASSASSINATION OF JULIUS CAESAR

**15 March 44 BCE, *Rome, Italy***

**Caesar's assassination triggered a series of violent civil wars. The final civil war, between Mark Antony and Caesar's grandnephew, Octavian, ended with the former's defeat and suicide in Egypt, marking the end of the Roman Republic and the rise of the Roman Empire.**

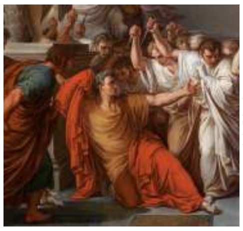


Image source: wiki/ RIbberlin

# FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL

**9 November 1989, *Berlin, Germany***

© Getty Images

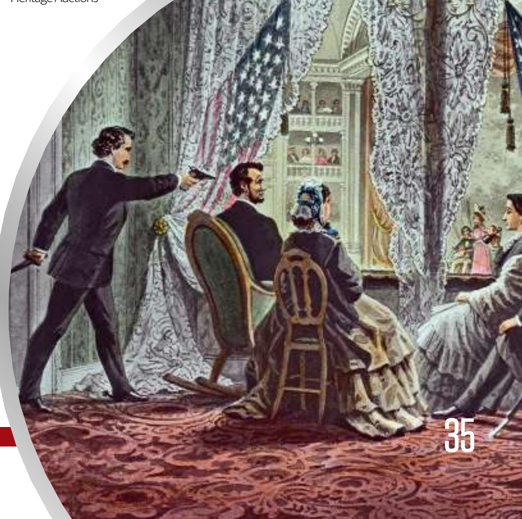
When the Soviet Union announced citizens of East Berlin were free to cross into the West, during the following days over two million people celebrated at the wall, some attacking it with hammers. Symbolically the fall of the wall came to epitomise the end of the Cold War, which concluded formally almost a year later with the reunification of Germany.

# THE ASSASSINATION OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

**14 April 1865, *Ford's Theatre, Washington DC, USA***

Lincoln, shot dead by John Wilkes Booth, was the first president to be assassinated in US history. Although there were those who celebrated his death, the assassination sent shockwaves around the world and turned Lincoln in a national martyr. Today, he continues to be heavily memorialised as a symbol of American democracy.

Image source: wiki/
Heritage Auctions



# STORMING OF THE WINTER PALACE

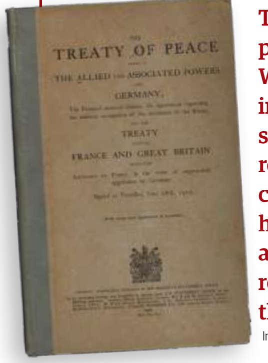
**25-26 October 1917, *St Petersburg, Russia***

In October 1917, the Bolshevik revolutionary forces, headed by Vladimir Lenin, seized the Winter Palace – the very symbol of Tsarist power. The communist takeover of Russia would ultimately define much of 20th century history, particularly following WWII when an East/West divide sparked the Cold War.

Image source: wiki/Library of Congress

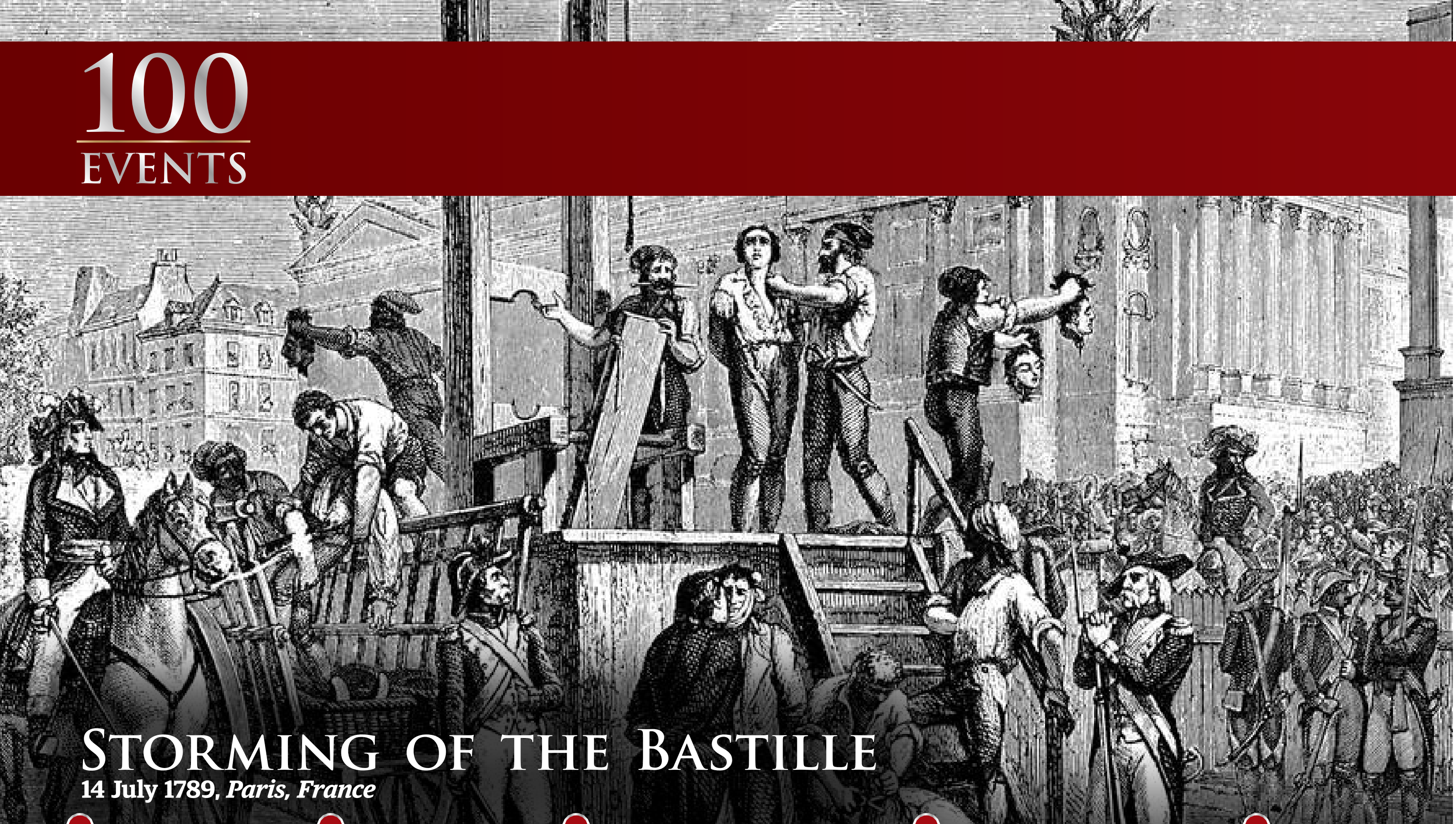
# TREATY OF VERSAILLES

**28 June 1919, *Paris, France***



**The most important of the peace treaties that ended WWI, the Treaty of Versailles included the War Guilt clause, stating that Germany was responsible for starting the conflict. As a result, Germany had to pay reparations, disarm and concede territory, causing resentment that contributed to the rise of the Nazi party.**

Image source: wiki/Auckland War Memorial Museum



# STORMING OF THE BASTILLE

**14 July 1789, *Paris, France***

### JULY 1789
***Storming of the Bastille***

French revolutionaries stormed the Bastille, a vast prison and fortress. A symbol of the Bourbon monarchy's power, this event kick-started the French Revolution.

### 1792
***Abolishment of the monarchy***

The French monarchy was abolished by the revolutionaries on 21 September 1792, and on 21 January 1793 former king Louis XVI was sent to the guillotine.

### 5 SEPTEMBER 1793
***The Reign of Terror begins***

Radicals, under the leadership of Maximilien Robespierre, seized control of the National Convention, beginning a violent period in which some 17,000 suspected enemies of the revolution were executed. This period ended with Robespierre's own execution on 28 July 1794.

### 1795-99
***Rise of Napoleon***

Napoleon Bonaparte was a young general whose influence was vast due to the governing Directory relying on the army for most of its power. In November 1799 Napoleon launched a coup and proclaimed himself leader, ending the revolution.

### 1799 ONWARDS
***Aftermath***

The French Revolution remains a key turning point in the history of France, and it also inspired numerous other countries and individuals.

© Alamy

Image source: wiki/Jean-Pol GRANDMONT

# ALEXANDER DEFEATS DARIUS III

**5 November 333 BCE, *Issus, Turkey***

The rise of Alexander the Great was not inevitable. The great Persian Empire stood against him and while his father had always wanted to defeat it, there was no guarantee of victory against its superior numbers. Yet at Issus, on a narrow battlefield, Alexander managed to tactically outmanoeuvre the experienced king of Persia, send him running, and begin his conquest of the Persian Empire.

# TET OFFENSIVE BEGINS

**30 January 1968, *Vietnam***

A turning point in the Vietnam War, the Tet Offensive was a coordinated series of attacks by the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese. The offensive shook American confidence as they scrambled to launch an effective counterattack, and President Johnson was faced with calls to scale back US involvement. While the war would continue for some years, the Tet Offensive was one of the first signs that an American victory was unlikely.

Image source: wiki/National Archives and Records Administration

# ASSASSINATION OF MAHATMA GANDHI

**30 January 1948, *New Delhi, India***

Mahatma Gandhi was shot by Nathuram Godse, a Hindu fanatic. Gandhi had pushed for Indian independence and used fasting and non-violent methods as a means through which to evoke change. Despite attempts to keep peace by Gandhi's successor Jawaharlal Nehru, violence erupted in Bombay and throughout India. Nehru oversaw the transition of post-colonial India in the following years.

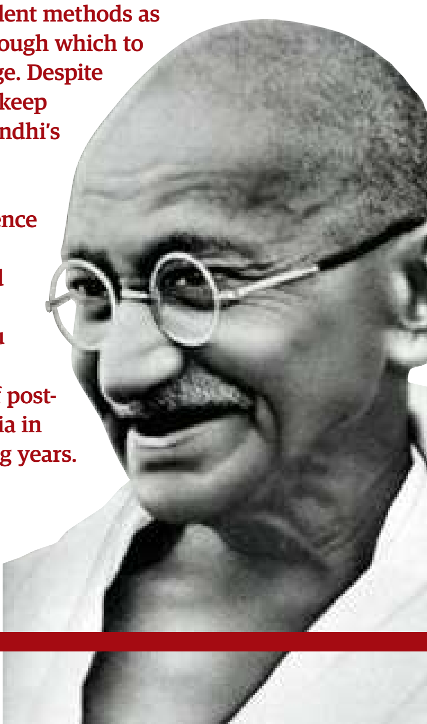


Image source: wiki/Life

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## NIGHT OF THE LONG KNIVES

### 30 June 1934, *Germany*

After becoming nervous that the paramilitary SA had become too powerful, Adolf Hitler ordered the systematic execution of its leaders by the SS, along with a variety of other opponents. Hitler claimed 66 deaths, whereas some scholars have put the number at 400. The event allowed a consolidation of Nazi power.

## BOSTON TEA PARTY

### 16 December 1773, *Boston, Massachusetts*

What might have seemed like a small act of rebellion and sabotage became the spark that lit a revolution. To protest against taxation without representation, American patriots threw tea off British East India ships into Boston harbour. The British retaliation only strengthened opinion against colonial government.

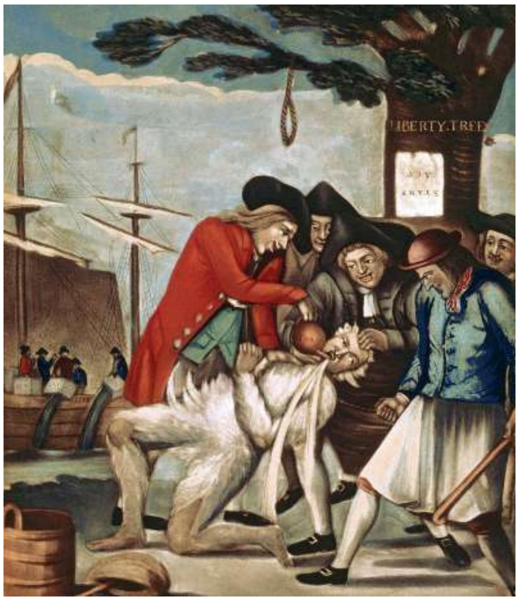


Image source: wiki/John Carter Brown Library

## PRESIDENT KENNEDY ASSASSINATED

### 22 November 1963, *Dallas, USA*

As the youngest president in American history, John F Kennedy represented a generational power shift in the US. His assassination, the first of a major leader in the television age, fundamentally changed how vulnerable America felt and steeled those seeking change to expect violent opposition.

Image source: wiki/ Walt Cisco

## INVASION OF POLAND

### 1 September 1939, *Poland*

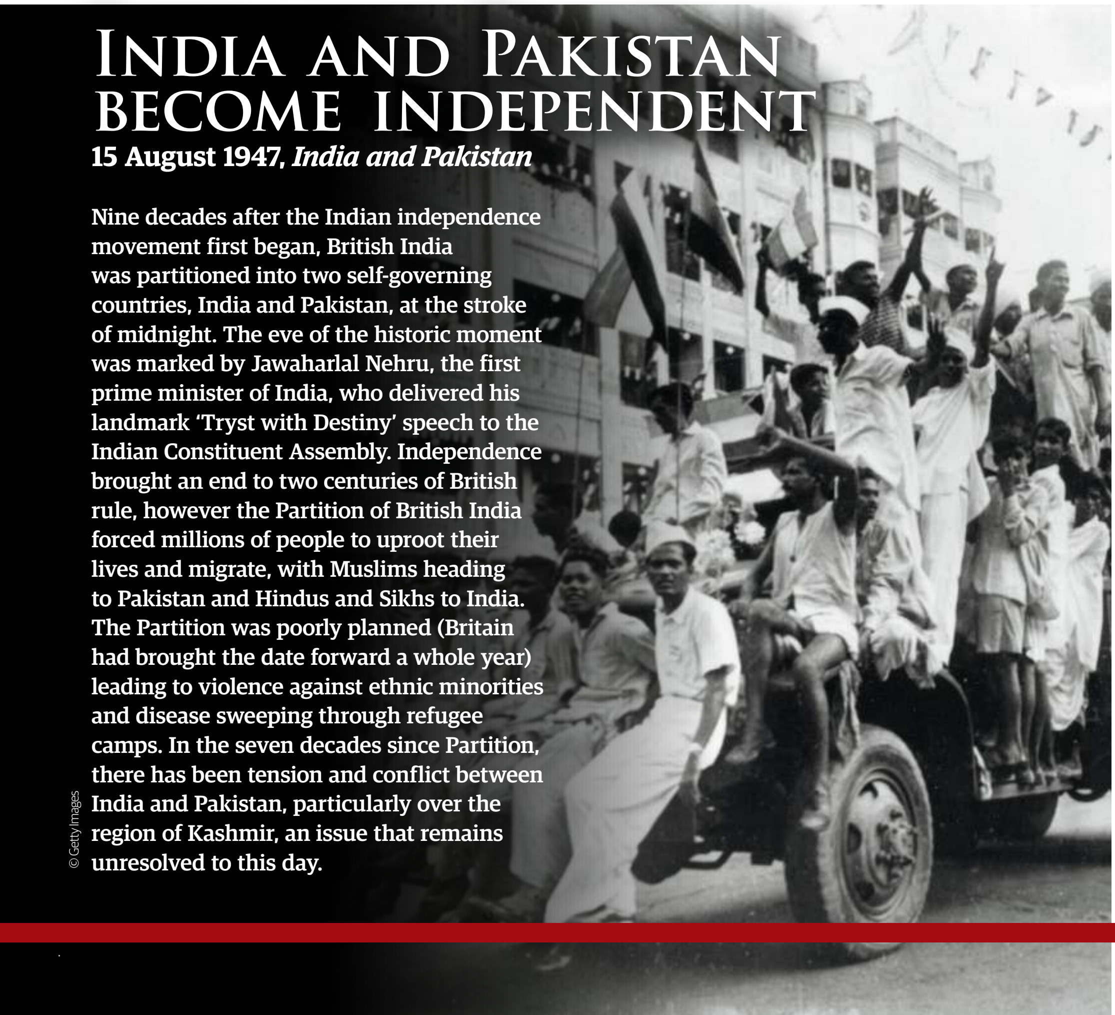
When Germany finally invaded Poland in the autumn of 1939, ignoring the ultimatum made by Britain and France that there would be war if they did, a pan-European conflict became inevitable. This was the final straw and was such a ruthless invasion that it set the terms for much of the conflict that followed.

Image source: wiki/ National Archives

## INDIA AND PAKISTAN BECOME INDEPENDENT

### 15 August 1947, *India and Pakistan*

Nine decades after the Indian independence movement first began, British India was partitioned into two self-governing countries, India and Pakistan, at the stroke of midnight. The eve of the historic moment was marked by Jawaharlal Nehru, the first prime minister of India, who delivered his landmark 'Tryst with Destiny' speech to the Indian Constituent Assembly. Independence brought an end to two centuries of British rule, however the Partition of British India forced millions of people to uproot their lives and migrate, with Muslims heading to Pakistan and Hindus and Sikhs to India. The Partition was poorly planned (Britain had brought the date forward a whole year) leading to violence against ethnic minorities and disease sweeping through refugee camps. In the seven decades since Partition, there has been tension and conflict between India and Pakistan, particularly over the region of Kashmir, an issue that remains unresolved to this day.


© Getty Images

## NORMANDY LANDINGS BEGIN

### 6 June 1944, *Normandy, France*

This was the beginning of the end. While Germany was deeply occupied by the Soviet Union in the east and successes had been had in Italy and North Africa to the south, establishing a foothold in the west was the final piece of the Allied strategy to defeat the Nazis. The success of D-Day was paramount.

Image source: wiki/US Department of Defense

# LIBERATION OF LUBLIN-MAJDANEK

**23 July 1944, *Lublin, Poland***

The atrocities being committed by the Nazi regime across Europe had been reported on for many years, but it was not until the liberation of its concentration camps that the cold, hard horror of its mechanised extermination was clear. The first major death camp to be liberated was Lublin-Majdanek as the Red Army progressed through eastern Poland in the summer of 1944. The Soviets wasted no time in making this site available to the world to see. In the weeks that followed, the press was invited to visit the camp with *Red Star* (the Red Army paper) journalist Konstantin Simonov and *The New York Times* reporter Bill Lawrence both attending. As further camps were liberated across Europe by Allied forces, more and more people got to see the human cost first hand, putting to bed any doubt that might still have existed.

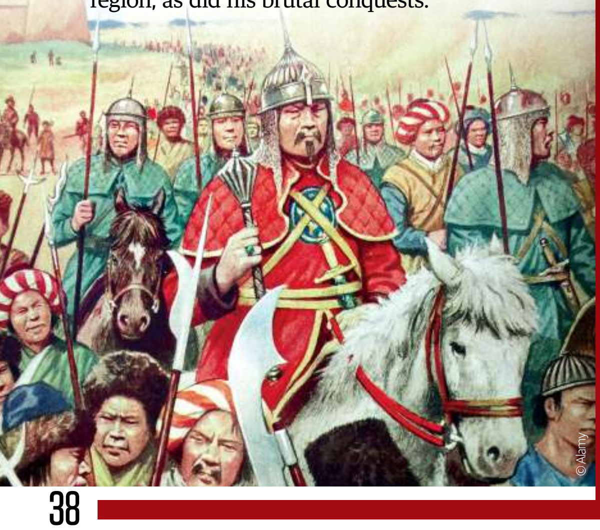
> "I HAVE JUST SEEN THE MOST TERRIBLE PLACE ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH"
> *- Bill Lawrence, The New York Times*

© Getty Images

# GENHIS KHAN CONQUERS BEIJING

**1 June 1215, *Beijing, China***

Shortly after the Mongol chief Temüjin had been bestowed with the title Genghis Khan (roughly translated as Universal Ruler) he set his sights on unifying not just his people, but most of Asia. His capture of Zhongdu (now Beijing) was the tipping point that saw his kingdom expand to become the largest contiguous land empire in history. His unification of laws and language had a massive impact across the entire region, as did his brutal conquests.



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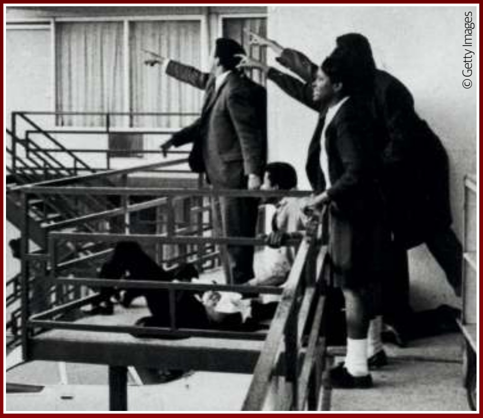


© Getty Images

# THE ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING

**4 April 1968, *Memphis, USA***

Civil rights campaigner Martin Luther King Jr was fatally shot in the neck while standing on the balcony outside his room at the Lorraine Motel. News of his death triggered unrest and riots throughout the country, with criminal James Earl Ray convicted for the assassination a year later. For many, MLK's death was proof that non-violent means could not achieve equality for African-Americans, thereby contributing to the rise of the more militant Black Power movement.

# HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI BOMBED

**August 1945, *Japan***

On 6 August 1945, the USA dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, killing some 80,000 people in the initial blast. Three days later a second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki, the combined casualties nearing 200,000. While ending World War II in the Pacific, these events also signalled the dawning of the nuclear age. For successive decades, the US and USSR would become locked in a deadly arms race while the world lived in fear of nuclear annihilation.

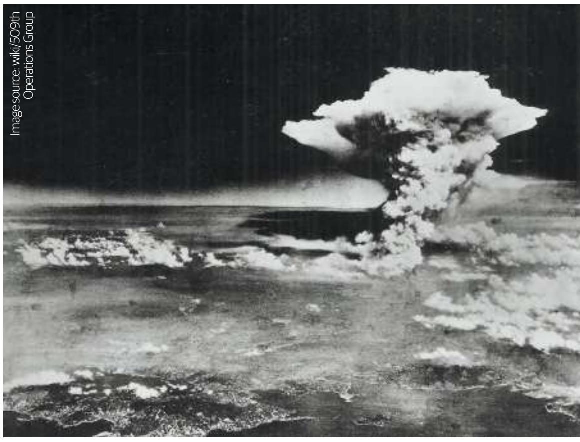
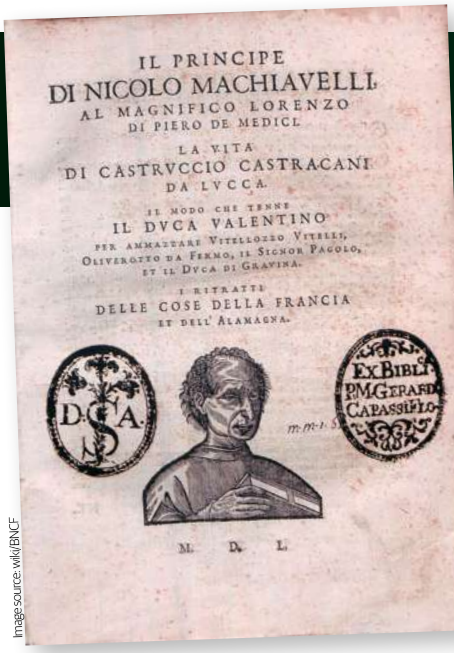


Image source: wiki/509th Operations Group



IL PRINCIPE
DI NICOLO MACHIAVELLI
AL MAGNIFICO LORENZO
DI PIERO DE MEDICI.
LA VITA
DI CASTRVCCIO CASTRACANI
DA LVCCA.
IL MODO CHE TENNE
IL DVCA VALENTINO
PER AMMAZZARE VITELLOZZO VITELLI,
OLIVEROTTO DA FERMO, IL SIGNOR PAGOLO,
ET IL DVCA DI GRAVINA.
I RITRATTI
DELLE COSE DELLA FRANCIA
ET DELL'ALAMAGNA.

D. A.

EX BIBL. P.M. GERARD. CAPASSI FLO.

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Image source: wiki/BNCF

## PUBLICATION OF THE PRINCE

**1532, *Italy***

*The Prince* is a political treatise written almost five centuries ago by Italian philosopher and diplomat Niccolò Machiavelli, offering guidance to princes and rulers on how to gain and maintain political power – even if it requires using cruel or immoral methods. Famously stating "the ends always justify the means", Machiavelli's name has become synonymous with ruthlessness and scheming in politics, and *The Prince* continues to be an important work of political philosophy today.

## FIRST LEGAL CODE ESTABLISHED

**c.1754 BCE, *Babylon, Mesopotamia***

It may have only been discovered a little over 100 years ago, but the stela inscribed with the *Code of Hammurabi* is no less important for how recently we've come to know about it. As the earliest known example of codified law that applied to all citizens, it marks the beginning of justice being determined through predetermined rules rather than the whims of a local ruler or magistrate.

Image source: wiki/Rama

## ON THE ORIGIN OF SPECIES RELEASED

**24 November 1859, *London, England***

Charles Darwin's *On The Origin Of Species* changed forever we the way we as human beings think of ourselves and our place in the world. Based on years of research aboard the Beagle, Darwin outlined his theory of evolution and natural selection – ideas he held onto for 20 years fearing they could add to an era of unrest. They were no less explosive for the delay and remain vital scientific theories to this day.

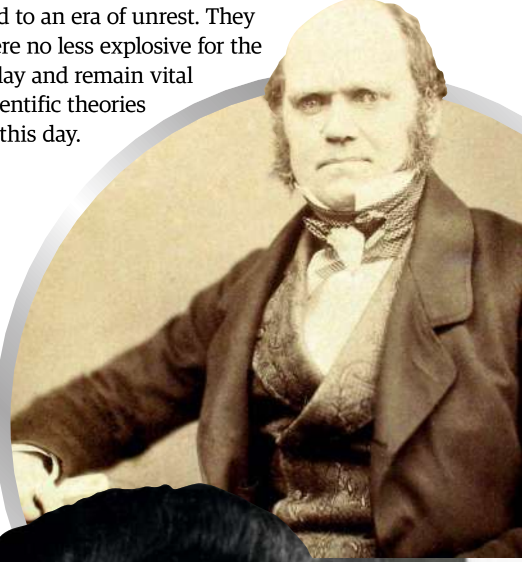
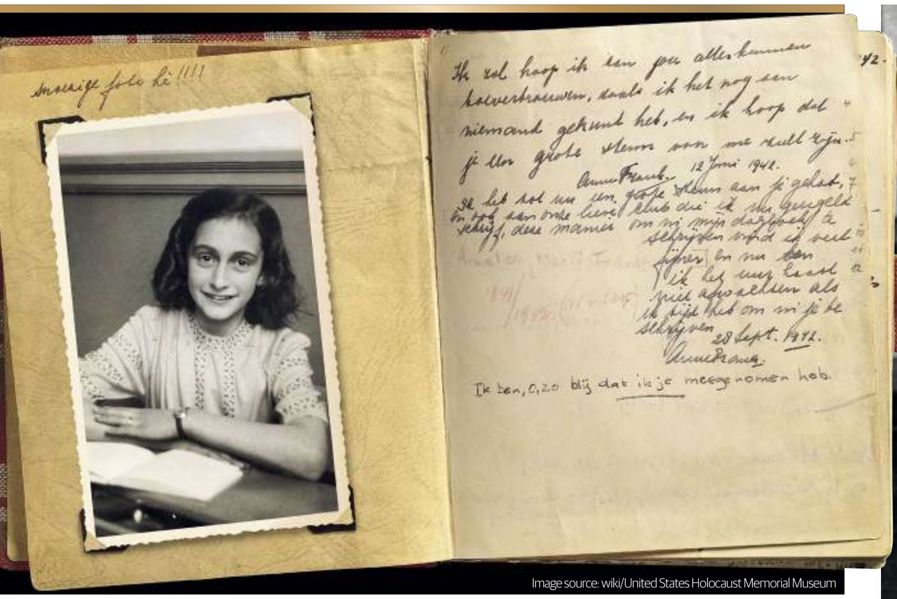


Image source: wiki/ darwin-online.org.uk



Snoezige foto hè!!!!

Ik zal hoop ik aan jou alles kunnen
toevertrouwen, zoals ik het nog aan
niemand gekund heb, en ik hoop dat
je een grote steun aan me zult zijn.
Anne Frank. 12 Juni 1942.
Ik heb tot nu toe een grote steun aan je gehad,
en ook aan onze lieve club die ik nu geregeld
schrijf, deze manier om in mijn dagboek te
schrijven vind ik veel
fijner, en nu kan
ik het haast
niet afwachten als
ik tijd heb om in je te
schrijven. 28 Sept. 1942.
AnneFrank.

Ik ben, o, zo blij dat ik je meegenomen heb.

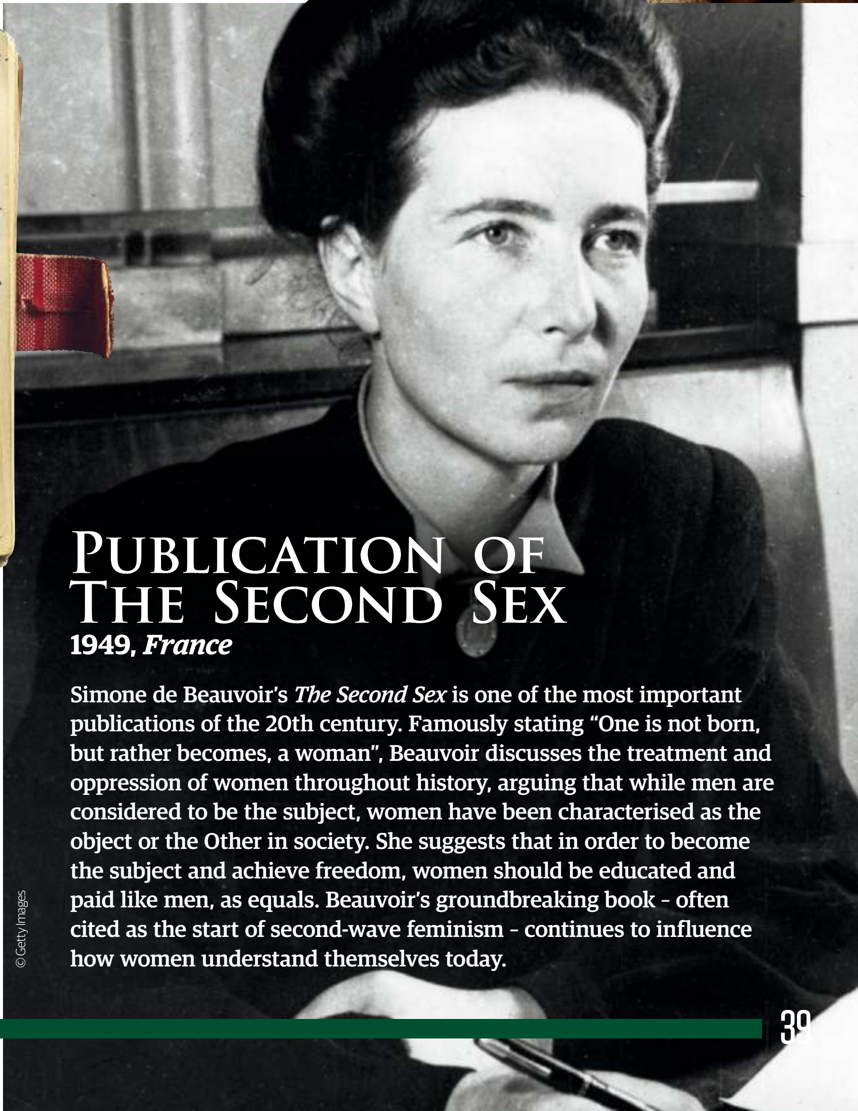
Image source: wiki/United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

## ANNE FRANK DIARY PUBLISHED

**25 June 1947, *Netherlands***

Published as *Het Achterhuis* (*The Secret Annex*, after the Frank family hiding place in Amsterdam), the diaries of Anne Frank were a sensation and quickly translated for publication around the world.

Their biggest impact was in humanising the Holocaust story like nothing else had before. This bright young girl, so full of ideas and hope expressed so imaginatively in her own words, captured the horror of the moment as well as the endurance of the human spirit. She had always wanted to be an author and thanks to her father (the only survivor of the family) that wish came true.

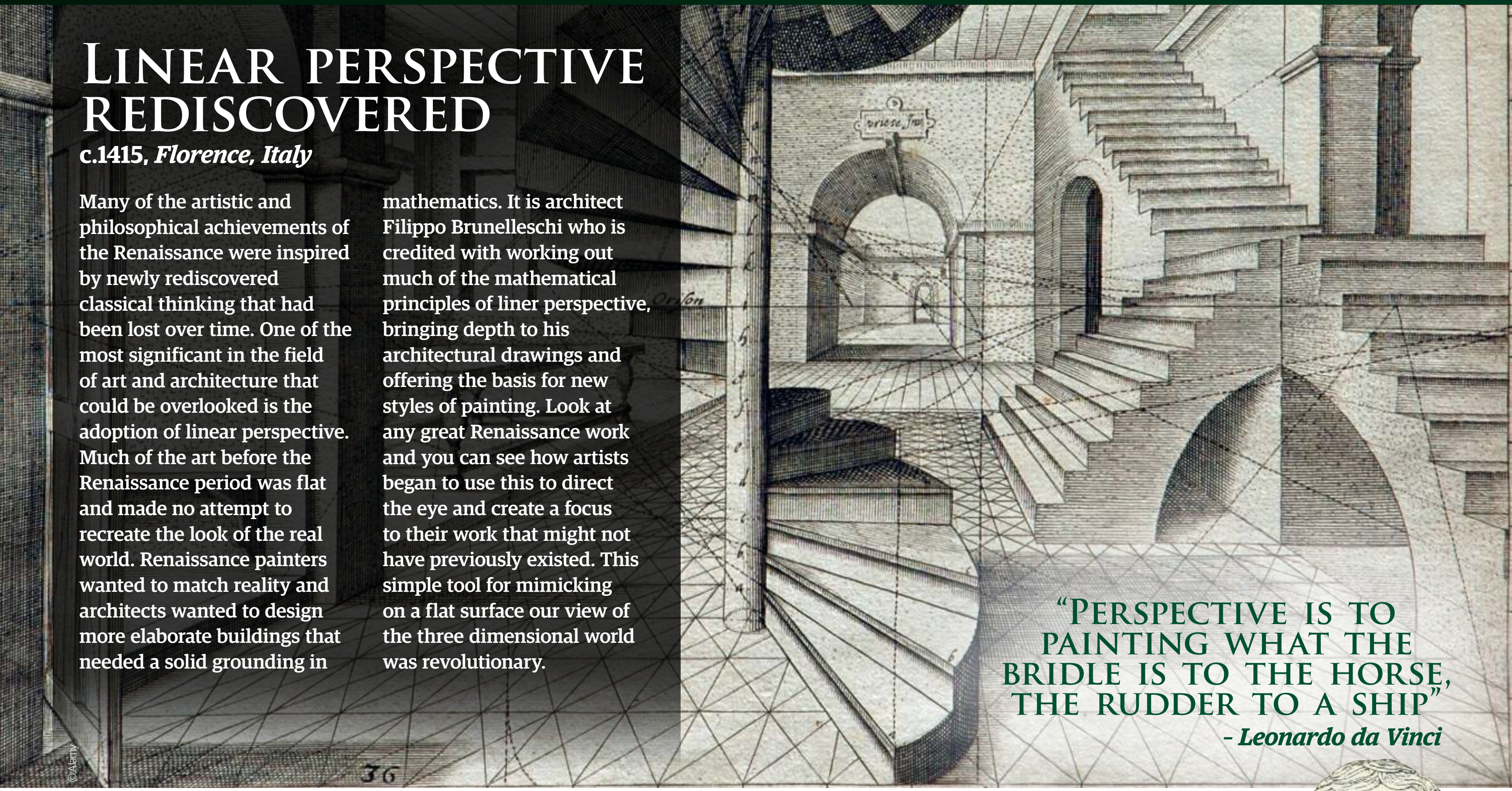


© Getty Images

## PUBLICATION OF THE SECOND SEX

**1949, *France***

Simone de Beauvoir's *The Second Sex* is one of the most important publications of the 20th century. Famously stating "One is not born, but rather becomes, a woman", Beauvoir discusses the treatment and oppression of women throughout history, arguing that while men are considered to be the subject, women have been characterised as the object or the Other in society. She suggests that in order to become the subject and achieve freedom, women should be educated and paid like men, as equals. Beauvoir's groundbreaking book – often cited as the start of second-wave feminism – continues to influence how women understand themselves today.



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# LINEAR PERSPECTIVE REDISCOVERED

**c.1415, *Florence, Italy***

Many of the artistic and philosophical achievements of the Renaissance were inspired by newly rediscovered classical thinking that had been lost over time. One of the most significant in the field of art and architecture that could be overlooked is the adoption of linear perspective. Much of the art before the Renaissance period was flat and made no attempt to recreate the look of the real world. Renaissance painters wanted to match reality and architects wanted to design more elaborate buildings that needed a solid grounding in mathematics. It is architect Filippo Brunelleschi who is credited with working out much of the mathematical principles of liner perspective, bringing depth to his architectural drawings and offering the basis for new styles of painting. Look at any great Renaissance work and you can see how artists began to use this to direct the eye and create a focus to their work that might not have previously existed. This simple tool for mimicking on a flat surface our view of the three dimensional world was revolutionary.

> "PERSPECTIVE IS TO PAINTING WHAT THE BRIDLE IS TO THE HORSE, THE RUDDER TO A SHIP"
>
> *– Leonardo da Vinci*

## PUBLICATION OF THE ART OF WAR

**c.5th century BCE, *China***

Attributed to Chinese military strategist Sun Tzu, *The Art of War* is undoubtedly one of the most influential texts in history. Focusing on all aspects of warfare and leadership, it has inspired military and political leaders such as Napoleon and is still studied in military academies around the world.

Image source: wiki/663highland

## THE FIRST UNIVERSITY IS ESTABLISHED

**1088, *Bologna, Italy***

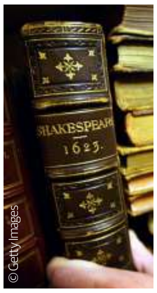
Image source: wiki/Stefan Bernd

**The University of Bologna is considered to be the world's first university as well as the oldest in continuous operation. It was followed by universities in other European cities such as Paris and Oxford, laying the foundations for education and research that has shaped our world.**

## FIRST PUBLICATION OF THE COMPLETE WORKS OF SHAKESPEARE

**1623, *London, UK***

Containing 36 plays, 18 of which had never been printed before, this edition was a turning point in the publication of the Bard's work. The 'First Folio' remains one of the closest surviving versions of the plays as they were written, and it also contains one of the few surviving portraits of Shakespeare, approved by those who knew him.



©Getty Images

## HERODOTUS PUBLISHES HIS HISTORIES

**c.430 BCE, *Halicarnassus (modern Turkey)***

Credited as the father of history, Herodotus' work *The Histories* is an account of life and politics in the build up to the Greco-Persian Wars. As the earliest example of narrative history this work has been the basis for historical study in the many centuries since.

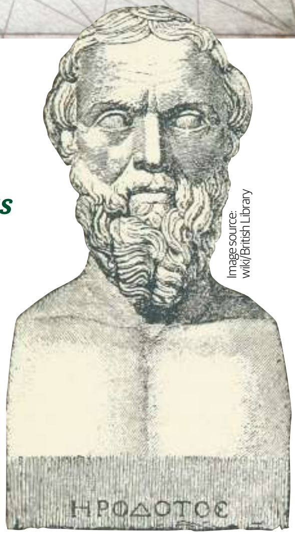


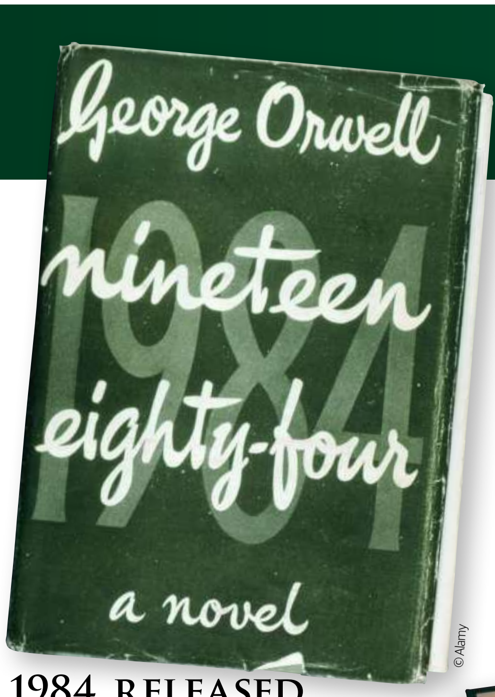
Image source: wiki/British Library

Image source: wiki/Thomas Nelson

## THE FIRST OLYMPICS

**c.776 BCE, *Olympia, Greece***

**A sporting event held in honour of Zeus, the Olympics began only as a footrace but evolved into a massive sporting event, known around the ancient world. The spirit of peaceful competition it promoted was at the heart of its revival in 1896.**



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## 1984 RELEASED

**8 June 1949, *London, UK***

Originally titled *The Last Man In Europe*, George Orwell's seminal novel was a brutal attack on the horrors of totalitarianism. Published in the UK in 1949, it would not be until almost 40 years later in 1988 that the book was allowed in any language in the Soviet Union. Since then, there have been five official Russian translations. Somewhat oddly, the book was also challenged in Jackson County, Florida, for being pro-communist.

## HOMER WRITES THE ILLIAD AND ODYSSEY

**c.8th century BCE, *Greece***

**Speaking of Homer, Plato stated that many considered him to be "the educator of all Greeks". However, today we still know decidedly little about the mysterious author of both the *Illiad* and the *Odyssey*, and Homer remains an enigma. Despite this, these two stories have been the foundations for numerous works of art and fiction. From James Joyce's *Ulysses* to *Star Wars*, the narrative structure can be seen in much of popular culture.**

Image source: wiki/Fleuron

Image source: wiki/Bjoertvedt

## PUBLICATION OF THE ANALECTS OF CONFUCIUS

**c.5th century BCE, *China***

*The Analects* is a collection of the teachings, ideas and conversations of the Chinese philosopher Confucius, mostly written by his students in the decades after his death. The text has heavily shaped Chinese culture, impacting areas such as education, morality and art, and it is also deeply ingrained in other East Asian societies. Over 2,400 years since it was published, *The Analects* remains one of the most influential and studied books ever written.

## FREDERICK DOUGLASS PUBLISHES MEMOIR

**1 May 1845, *Massachusetts, USA***

**As the abolitionist movement grew in the United States a number of memoirs and biographies of enslaved people who had achieved their freedom appeared, the most well known and disseminated being *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave* by Frederick Douglass. Douglass was 27 when he published his story, telling of his birth into slavery, his life on a plantation and his experiences. Importantly, he wrote eloquently of the emotional and spiritual experience, which connected with audiences around the world. It would be another 18 years before the Emancipation Proclamation, but this book was a powerful tool for the abolitionist movement.**

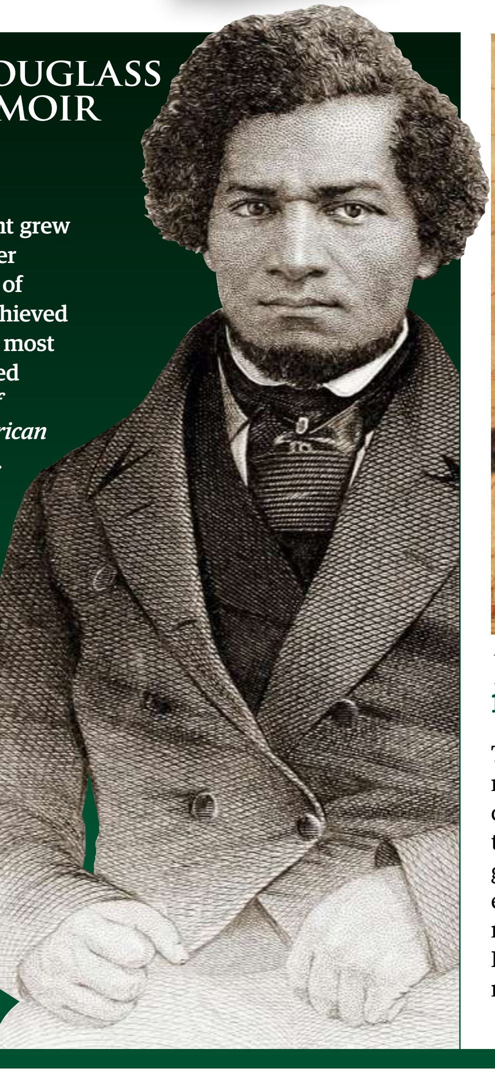

Image source: wiki/Miller, Orton & Mulligan

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## ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SILK ROAD

**130 BCE, *China***

The Silk Road was a series of trade routes set up by the Han Dynasty, connecting China and the Far East to the West. It had a tremendous global impact, facilitating the exchange and spread of different religions such as Buddhism and Islam in addition to architecture, music and art from various cultures. With the opening of trade, inventions such as gunpowder and paper flooded into Europe along with spices and other commodities. Although the routes were closed in 1453, today the Silk Road is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, a testament to its cultural and economic significance.

Image source: wiki/dl.nlai.ir

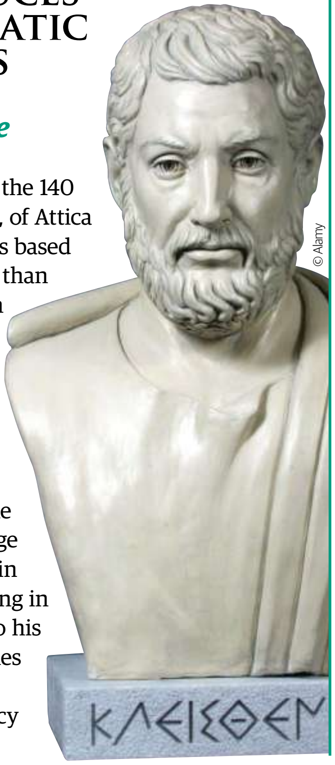
## IRAN BECOMES ISLAMIC REPUBLIC

**1 April 1979, *Tehran, Iran***

Following the successful overthrow of the US-backed monarch, a referendum approved (by 99%) the formation of an Islamic Republic and Iran was set on an entirely new path under its leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. His success was an inspiration to Muslims around the world and sent ripples throughout the Middle East, helping to reshape the political landscape of the region and setting up much of the political divide that exists to this day.

## CLEISTHENES INTRODUCES DEMOCRATIC REFORMS

**c.508 BCE, *Athens, Greece***



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Having organised the 140 villages, or demes, of Attica into ten new tribes based on location rather than heritage, Athenian statesman Cleisthenes invited each to select 50 representatives to sit in a council in Athens so even the most remote village would have a say in the decision making in the city. Thanks to his reforms, Cleisthenes is considered the father of democracy in Athens.

© Getty Images

## DEATH OF EMILY WILDING DAVISON

**8 June 1913, *Epsom, England***

At the Epsom Derby suffragette Emily Wilding Davison ran out onto the race track, where she was hit and knocked unconscious by King George V's horse, Anmer. She succumbed to her injuries four days later. Her reasons for running out still remain unclear, but her death turned her into a martyr for the women's suffrage movement in the UK. Women were eventually granted equal voting rights 15 years later.

© Getty Images

## STONEWALL RISES

**28 June 1969, *New York, USA***

### 28 JUNE 1969

***Stonewall Riot***

New York police raided the Stonewall Inn, a meeting place for LGBT(+) individuals. They arrested several people for not wearing at least three items of "gender appropriate clothing" and roughed up patrons. Outside, crowds fought back and for several days protested police behaviour towards LGBT(+) individuals.

### 28 JUNE 1970

***First Pride march***

On the one-year anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, thousands of people in New York marched to campaign for LGBT(+) rights. Pride marches spread around the world and continue to this day.

### 1989

***Formation of Stonewall charity (UK)***

A group of individuals protesting Section 28 (a law designed to stop the 'promotion' of homosexuality in schools) name their organisation after the Stonewall Inn. It has successfully campaigned for the equalisation of the age of consent, allowing LGBT(+) individuals in the armed forces, gay marriage and the repeal of Section 28. It's one of several groups inspired by the 1969 riots.

### 1999-2019

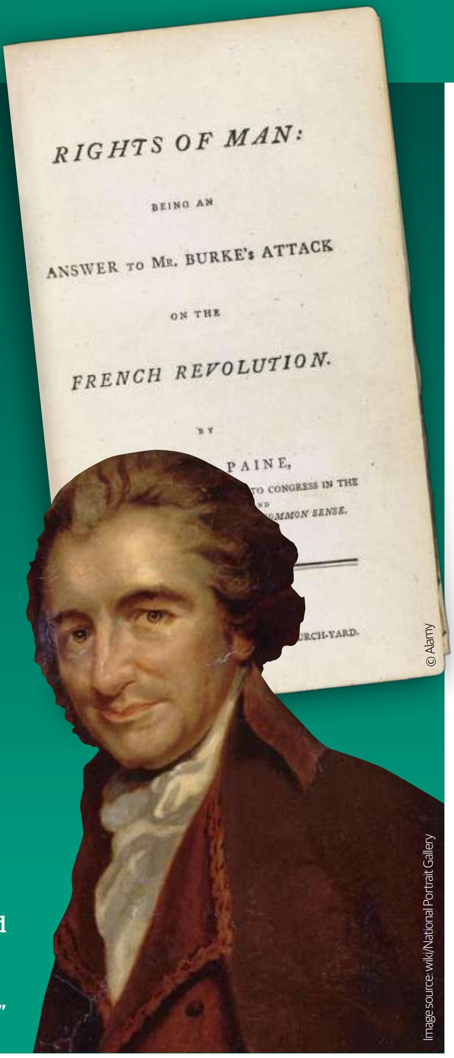
***The Recognition of Stonewall***

In 1999 the Stonewall Inn was placed on the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service and in 2016 President Barrack Obama declared the site a national monument. In 2019, the 50th anniversary of the riots, the New York City police commissioner issued a formal apology.

## THE RIGHTS OF MAN

**13 March 1791, *France***

Published two years after the storming of the Bastille in Paris, Thomas Paine's *The Rights of Man* defended the values of the French Revolution and was a blueprint for the future of democracy. It called for fair taxation based on wealth, voting rights extended so that the majority of citizens controlled the government, and the establishment of a social safety net. Staunchly republican, Paine was born in England but lived in France during the seismic events of 1789 and would end his days in the United States of America. As US president and revolutionary John Adams declared in 1805: "I know not whether any man in the world has had more influence on its inhabitants or affairs for the last 30 years than Tom Paine."



RIGHTS OF MAN:
BEING AN
ANSWER TO MR. BURKE's ATTACK
ON THE
FRENCH REVOLUTION.
BY
PAINE,
TO CONGRESS IN THE
ND
MMON SENSE.
RCH-YARD.

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Image source: wiki/National Portrait Gallery

## THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

**10 December 1948, *New York, USA***

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was created by the United Nations Human Rights Commission, chaired by Eleanor Roosevelt. Despite being adopted by the UN on 10 December 1948, initially there was only a moral but no legal duty to follow its code. This would not be changed until 1976 when the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights came into being. Despite the UDHR itself remaining non-legally binding, its influence can't be understated and it inspired Britain's own 1998 Human Rights Act. The document is also key to the framework of the UN and underlines many of its decisions.

THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF Human Rights

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## ESTABLISHMENT OF UNITED NATIONS

**24 October 1945, *San Francisco, USA***

**The United Nations, a body of nations designed to help combat international problems and crises, was officially formed just after WWII. Since its inception it has provided food to 90 million people in 75 countries, assisted 34 million refugees and authorised 71 peacekeeping missions.**

© Alamy

## NELSON MANDELA FREED

**11 February 1990, *Paarl, South Africa***

After 27 years in prison Nelson Mandela was released by President FW de Klerk following increasing pressure both internationally and domestically. The following year he became leader of the African National Congress and in 1994 was elected as South Africa's first black president.

Image source: wiki/flickr (user: Alexandros Koronakis)

## CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS

**16-28 October 1962, *Cuba & USA***

The USA and USSR were engaged in a standoff after the Soviet Union placed nuclear missiles in Cuba. The event created greater recognition of the threat of nuclear war and led to 1963's multilateral Partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty banning tests in the atmosphere, space and under water.

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## THE CREATION OF THE MAGNA CARTA

**15 June 1215, *Runnymede, England***

**The Magna Carta was agreed between King John and the leading barons of England. It established that nobody – including the king – was above the law. The actual date of the sealing of the Magna Carta is debated but it remains one of the most important legal documents in British history.**

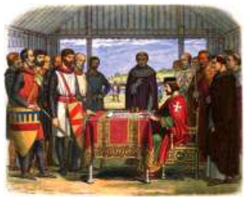


Image source: wiki/A Chronicle of England: B.C. 55 – A.D. 1485

## NIXON RESIGNS AFTER WATERGATE SCANDAL

**9 August 1874, *Washington DC, USA***

**Richard Nixon formally resigned as president of the United States, the first to do so, due to his impeachment over the Watergate scandal. His administration had been caught illegally wiretapping the Democratic National Committee headquarters and the cover-up (including Nixon lying about his involvement) created a schism among the American public.**

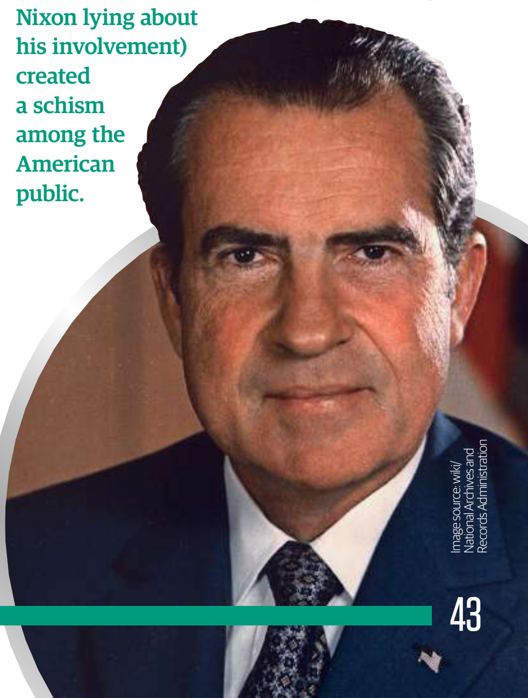
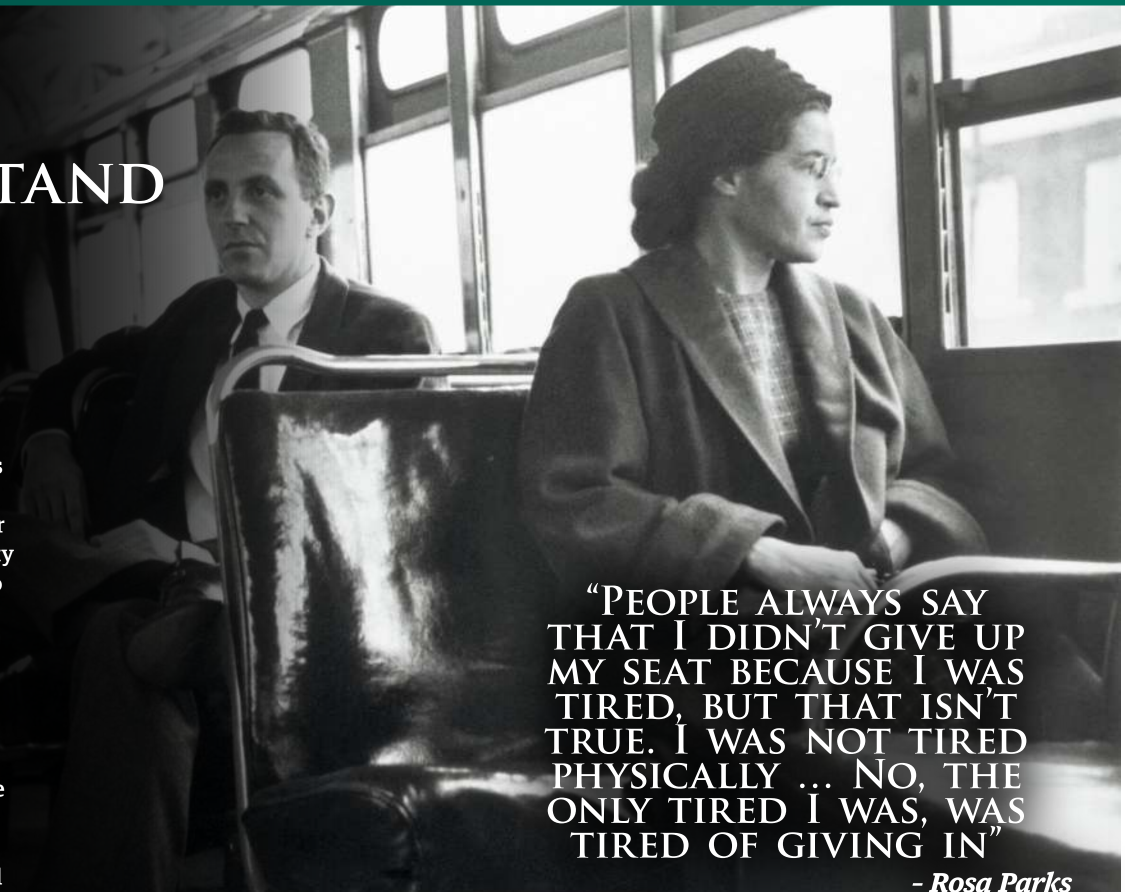


Image source: wiki/ National Archives and Records Administration



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## ROSA PARKS REFUSES TO STAND

**1 December 1955, *Alabama, USA***

After finishing work as a department store seamstress, Rosa Parks boarded a public bus to go home, sitting directly behind the whites-only section. Later, when a white man boarded only to find that all the seats for white passengers were taken, the driver told Parks and three other black passengers to move. The others complied but Parks refused and was subsequently arrested. Her refusal prompted the local Black community to organise the Montgomery Bus Boycott to end segregation on buses, a protest which captured national attention. It lasted for 381 days and ended after bus segregation was ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court, demonstrating that non-violent mass protests could successfully challenge racial injustice and segregation. A long-time member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Parks' defiant actions helped to galvanise the civil rights activists and she became known as 'the mother of the civil rights movement.'

> "PEOPLE ALWAYS SAY THAT I DIDN'T GIVE UP MY SEAT BECAUSE I WAS TIRED, BUT THAT ISN'T TRUE. I WAS NOT TIRED PHYSICALLY ... NO, THE ONLY TIRED I WAS, WAS TIRED OF GIVING IN"
>
> *- Rosa Parks*

## COMMUNIST MANIFESTO

**21 February 1848, *London, UK***

On 21 February 1848, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels' *The Communist Manifesto* was published in London by the Communist League. The text was formative in the creation of the Soviet Union and helped legitimise the international labour movement, which had helped to inspire the text. Marx and Engels' work fully exposed workplace exploitation and was instrumental in the struggle for workers' rights.

Signet Classics
THE COMMUNIST MANIFESTO
KARL MARX AND FRIEDRICH ENGELS
WITH A NEW AFTERWORD BY STEPHEN KOTKIN

© Alamy

WE STAND BY OUR LEADERS
WE STAND BY OUR LEADERS

© Getty Images

## THE BAN ON THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS IS LIFTED

**2 February 1990, *Cape Town, South Africa***

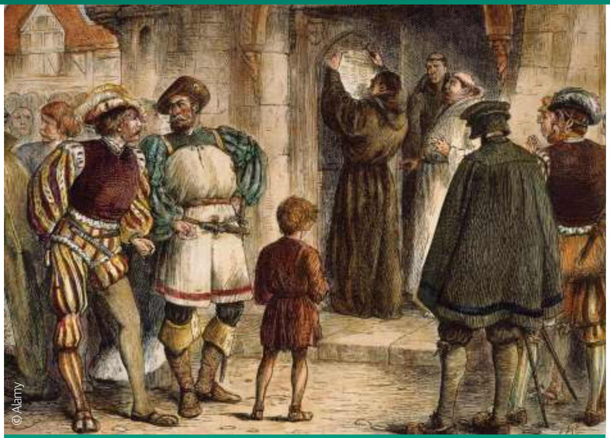
President FW de Klerk made a speech at the opening of parliament in which he announced the lifting of the three-decade ban on the ANC - the organisation that had been fighting to end white minority rule in South Africa. The lifting of the ban was a significant moment that marked the beginning of the end of apartheid and the transition to a constitutional democracy.

## 'I HAVE A DREAM'

**28 August 1963, *Washington DC, USA***

Widely considered to be one of best (if not *the* best) speeches of the 20th century, Dr Martin Luther King Jr's 'I Have a Dream' speech in front of the Lincoln Memorial was a rallying cry for racial equality and cooperation. King had used the phrasing before, but improvised on the day as he felt the need to excite the crowd. Its inspirational and universal message rallied support in the build up to the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

Image source: wiki/US Marine Corps



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## MARTIN LUTHER'S NINETY-FIVE THESES

**31 October 1517, *Wittenberg, Germany***

Martin Luther, a professor, priest and Augustinian monk, wrote and issued his *Ninety-Five Theses* that condemned the corruption of the Roman Catholic Church and many of its practices. For example, he opposed the clergy selling indulgences to people in return for either partially or fully pardoning their sins, arguing that only God could pardon those who were truly repentant. Luther was eventually excommunicated for his writings but his revolutionary ideas marked the birth of the Protestant Reformation, which led to religious, political, social and cultural upheaval that would divide Europe for centuries.

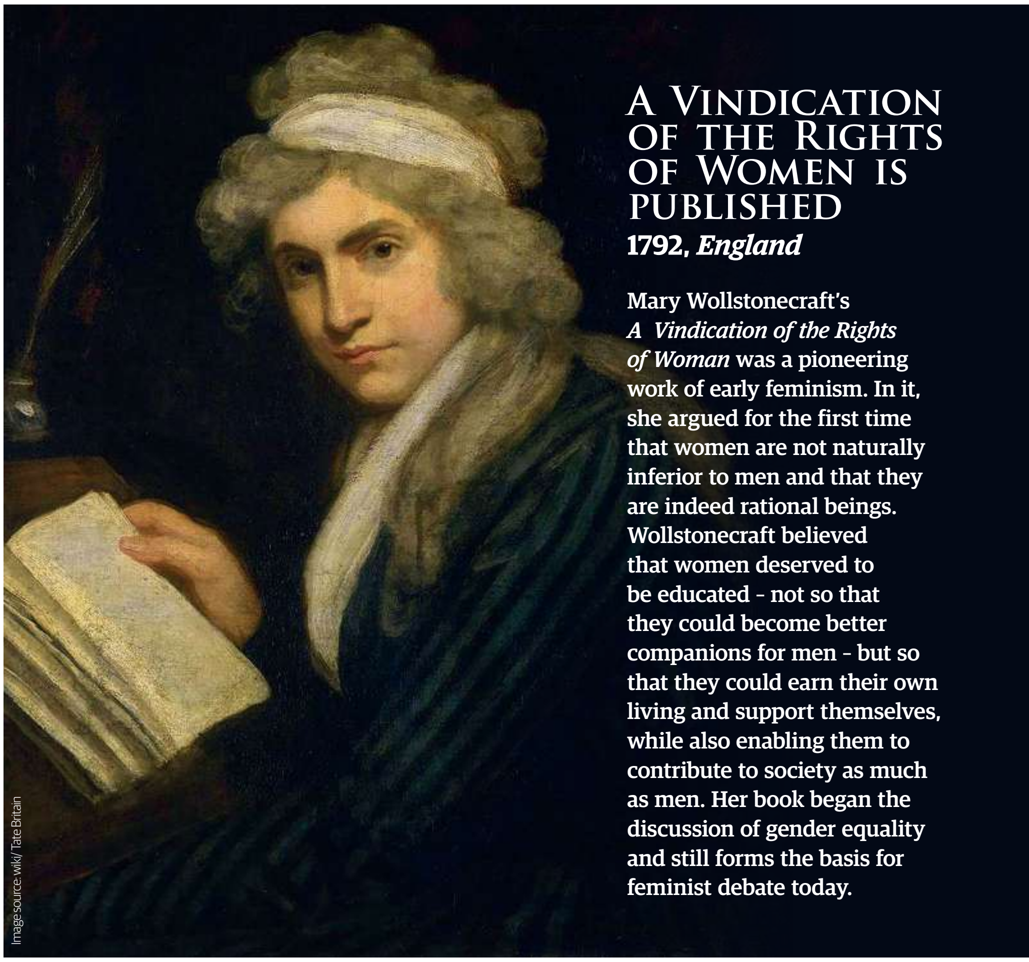

Image source: wiki/ Tate Britain

## A VINDICATION OF THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN IS PUBLISHED

**1792, *England***

Mary Wollstonecraft's *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* was a pioneering work of early feminism. In it, she argued for the first time that women are not naturally inferior to men and that they are indeed rational beings. Wollstonecraft believed that women deserved to be educated - not so that they could become better companions for men - but so that they could earn their own living and support themselves, while also enabling them to contribute to society as much as men. Her book began the discussion of gender equality and still forms the basis for feminist debate today.

Image source: wiki/Marie-Lan Nguyen

## THE EDICT OF MILAN IS ISSUED

**313 CE, *Mediolanum (Milan)***

Following an agreement between Roman Emperor Constantine I and Licinius, the Eastern Roman Emperor, the Edict established religious tolerance for Christians within the Roman Empire, as well as all other religions. It proved to be a turning point as Christianity continued to grow in popularity across the Empire, with the Edict ultimately paving the way for Rome to adopt Christianity as its official religion in 380 CE.

## ACT UP MOVEMENT

**1987, *USA***

In 1987, the AIDS crisis had fully hit the LGBT(+) community. Ronald Reagan had yet to say the word AIDS in public and the budget allocated to tackle the new disease was only a fraction of that allocated to other illnesses. By 1987, more than 40,000 Americans had died. Soon thousands of LGBT(+) individuals took to the streets to protest their anger, the movement quickly becoming known as AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power (ACT UP). They were instrumental in changing the policy on experimental drugs and helped spread awareness surrounding the AIDS crisis.

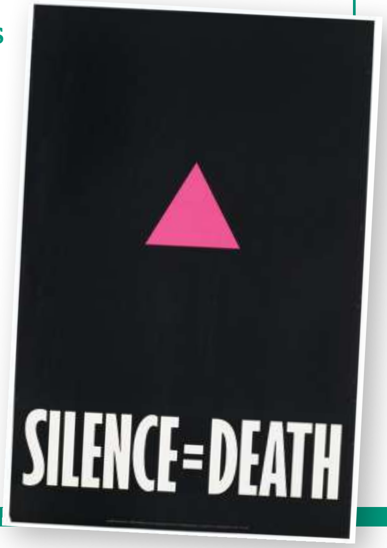

Image source: wiki/Wellcome Collection

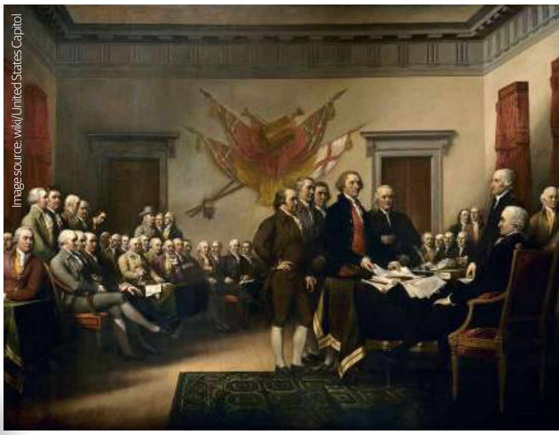

Image source: wiki/United States Capitol

## DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

**4 July 1776, *Philadelphia, USA***

The Declaration of Independence saw 13 British colonies in North America announce their separation from British rule. It would encourage Antonio de Nariño and Francisco de Miranda to work towards overthrowing the Spanish Empire in South America and was quoted during the French Revolution. Today the landmark date has become a national holiday in the United States.

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# WHO WERE JAPAN'S LADY SAMURAI?

We delve into Japanese history to reveal the so-called onna bugeisha – fearsome, skilled female warriors who took to the battlefield

Written by Dr Nyri A Bakkalian

Image source: wiki/Floating World Gallery

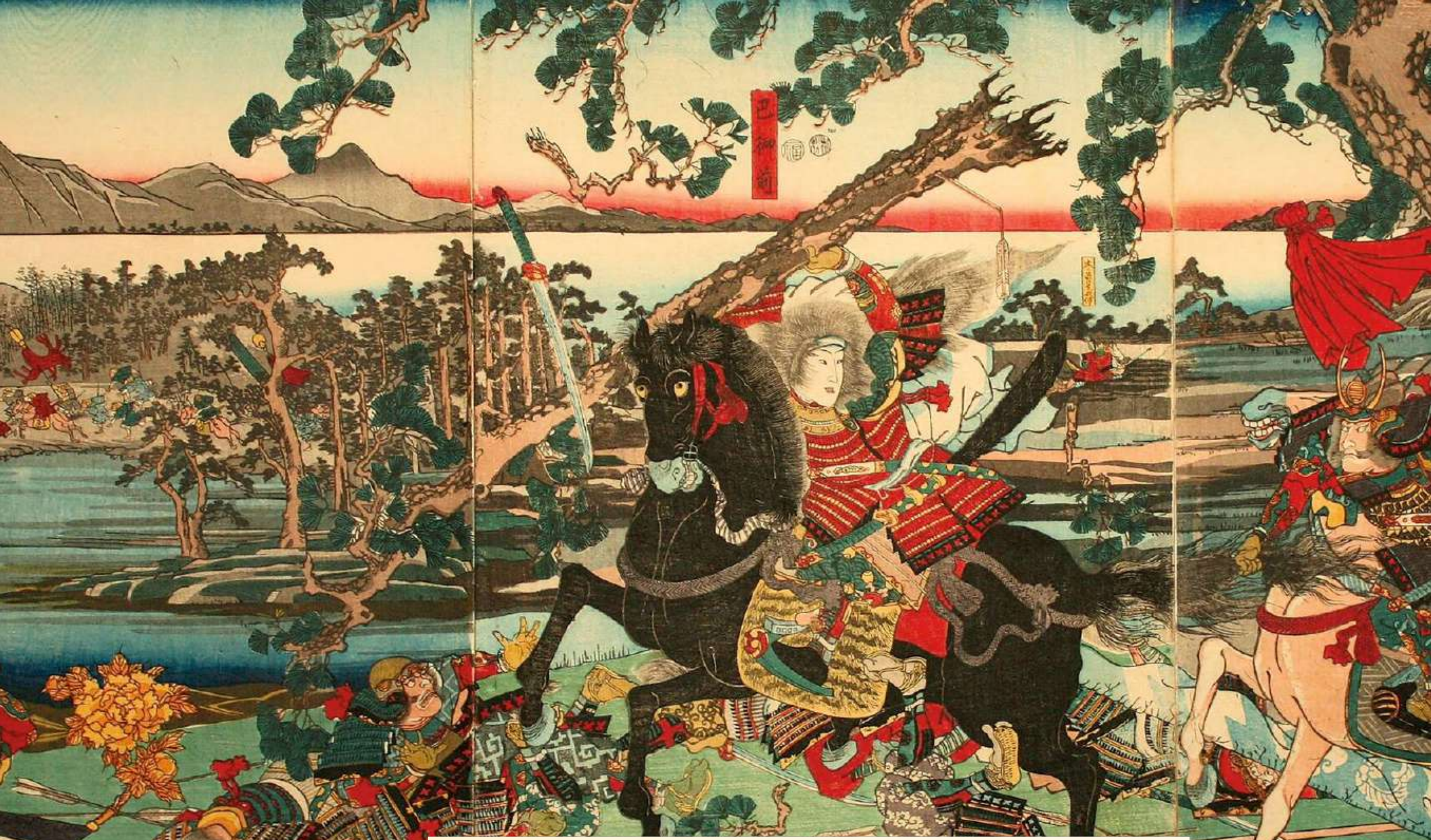
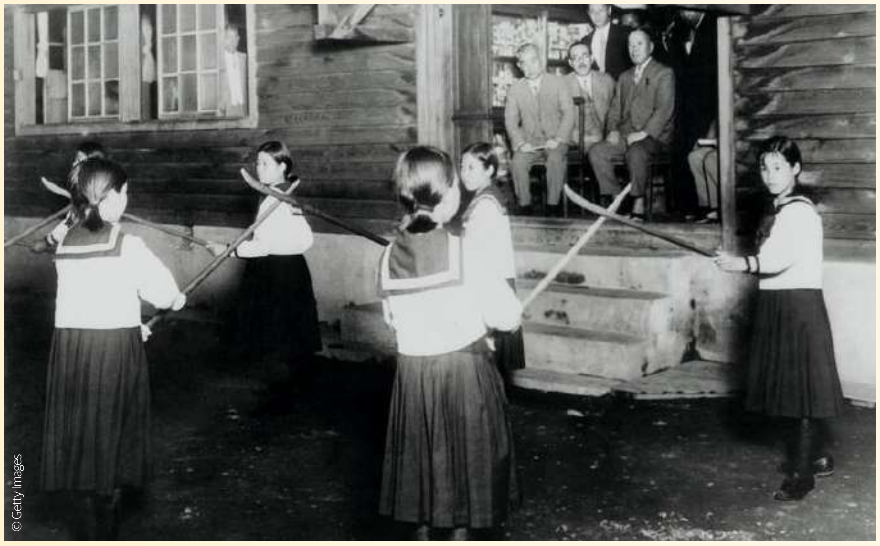


Image source: wiki/morimiya.net



© Getty Images

War and combat is not the province of men alone. Throughout history, regardless of gender, women have survived war and been combatants. And while many of the household names in Japanese military history are male, women have always been part of Japanese warfare, despite their frequent erasure from popular history. The common term one often encounters today for women combatants in Japanese history is onna bugeisha, which we'll translate here as 'women martial artists'.

Who were these women, and how do their stories fit into the broader story of pre-modern Japanese military history? If we're to seek out these stories, we need to be mindful of where and how to search. And we need to seek out women's stories on their own terms, rather than as an extension of the men. In the opening words of the first issue of early feminist magazine *Seito* (*Bluestocking*) in 1911, author and activist Hiratsuka Raicho (1886-1971) famously wrote, "In the beginning, woman was the sun." She was evoking the image of the sun goddess Amaterasu as she explained the magazine's aims of helping reclaim the inner 'light' of women's independence in an era that was seeking to force women into the role of "good wife, wise mother". Seeking the story of women at war in pre-modern Japanese history is, to this writer, one way of seeking out that light.

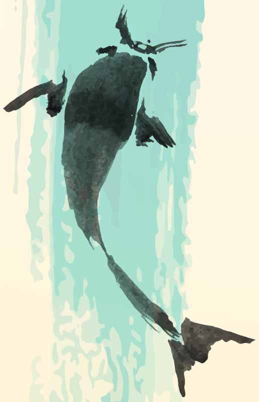
The first thing to bear in mind with the term onna bugeisha is that it's a modern day catch-all term used more in non-Japanese writing than in Japanese writing. Martial arts, as they exist today as systematised schools of practice in which one can become licensed, have not always existed. If you search for 'onna bugeisha' online you'll certainly find modern writing on some women, especially those in the Edo period who were notable practitioners of their martial arts. Chiba Sanako (1838-96), part of the famed Chiba family of instructors in Hokushin Itto-ryu, is a good example of this. But to apply 'bugeisha' to people in Heian or Sengoku era warfare is a bit of a stretch.

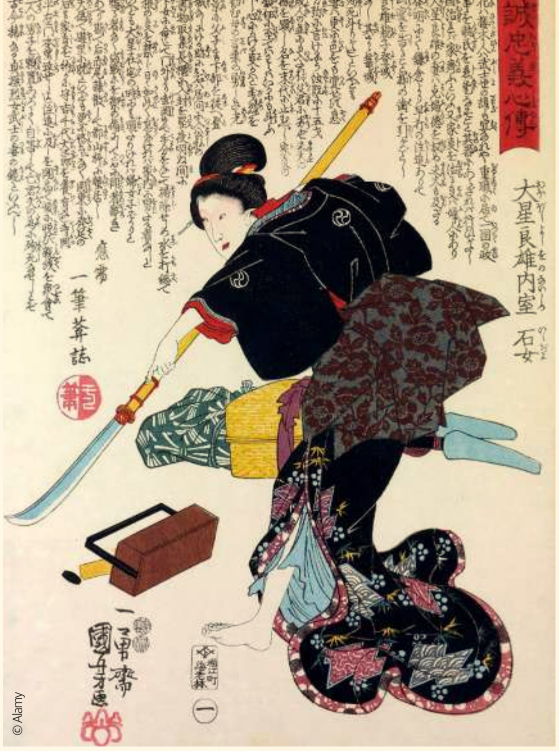
The term, as it tends to be used particularly in English, is looking not only at skill in systematised martial arts but more broadly at the histories of women at war. So where are these women 'hiding'? We must try to think more broadly, to find more of their stories. Rather than bugeisha (martial artist), where there may or may not have been practical application, we

**ABOVE** The Battle of Awazu would be the final stand of the rebellion Tomoe Gozen helped to fight

**ABOVE-RIGHT** Female warriors were eulogised for their bravery

**LEFT** Japanese schoolgirls show off their prowess with the naginata, 1935





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think it's worth approaching the subject of women combatants more broadly, whatever form that may take.

Some women combatants in Japanese history are particularly well known, even in English-language writing – they're likely to be the first ones you encounter if you do a little searching even in English. Tomoe Gozen (c.1157-c.1247) is at or near the top of that list. She was a combatant in the Genpei Wars of the late-12th century, under the command of Kiso no Yoshinaka, one of the Genji generals. And she appears in the classic text *Heike Monogatari*, which offers us one of our best descriptions of her appearance and her skill at arms.

Off the battlefield, but no less important in the shaping of military and civil policy, was Hojo Masako (1156-1225), remembered as the Nun-Shogun (Ama Shogun) for the significant political power she wielded in the early Kamakura shogunate. Through her marriage to Minamoto no Yoritomo, the first Kamakura shogun, she also ensured her birth family's continued political influence in the shogunate for the rest of its existence. Several decades after her death, it was a Hojo regent Hojo Tokimune (1251-84) under whose leadership the Kamakura Shogunate rallied Japanese forces in their defence against the Mongol Empire's two attempted invasions of Kyushu.

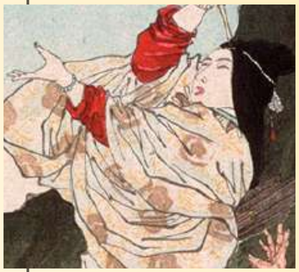
But of course, Tomoe Gozen and Hojo Masako are far from the only women in Japanese military history. This writer's research into women at war in Japanese history only made headway because of a focus on, and drawing from sources in, local history. Bear in mind, the perspective of Japanese-language scholarship by Japanese scholars is going to be different from the work of a non-Japanese scholar using Japanese and English sources and writing in English. With that caveat, here is just a bit of what we have learned.

Some women combatants we learned about were at the top of the samurai caste – women who came from the families of daimyo and their highest retainers. Occasionally, especially when there were no other heirs to inherit a lineage, there were some among them who were, in effect, daimyo themselves, a position typically the preserve of men. Two examples worth considering are Date Onami (1541-1602) who became castellan of Sukagawa after the death of her husband Nikaido Moriyoshi (1544-81), while Tachibana Ginchiyo (1569-1602) ▶

> "Tomoe Gozen and Hojo Masako are far from the only women in Japanese military history"

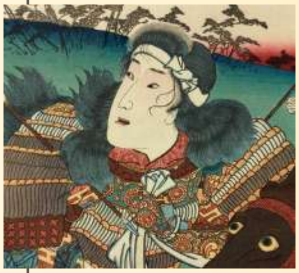
## FAMOUS WARRIORS

### Some of the better-known Japanese women of war



**EMPRESS JINGU**

Something of a legendary figure in Japan, Empress Jingu is said to have bloodlessly conquered Korea while still pregnant with her son Ōjin. The story tells of her son remaining in the womb for three years to allow her to complete her conquest.

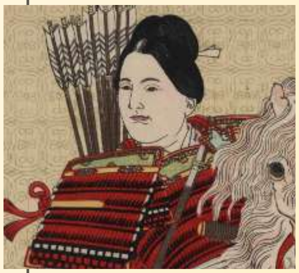


**TOMOE GOZEN**

Possibly Japan's most famous female warrior, Lady Tomoe was renowned for her strength and skill, most particularly as a mounted archer. She made her name in the Genpei War from 1180 to 1185.

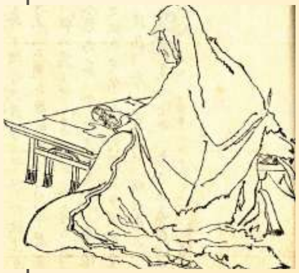
**NAKANO TAKEKO**

Taking up arms with her mother Koko and sister Masaki, Nakano Takeko was part of an all-female unit, or Joshigun, that fought in defence of Aizu (now Fukushima) against the Meiji regime as the nation was torn apart from 1868.



**HANGAKU GOZEN**

Mounting the tower of Echigo Castle in 1201, Hangaku rained down arrows on the attackers laying siege to it. Legend claims she slew men and horses, blocking their attack until an archer flanked her and she was wounded by his arrow.



**HOJO MASAKO**

Wife to the first shogun of Japan Minamoto Yoritomo, Hojo Masako retained a massive amount of power and influence upon his death in 1199. She would go on to lead the further conquest of Japan with her second husband.

**NIIJIMA YAE**

Another warrior who defended Aizu during the Meiji Restoration, Yae was a master marksman, taking up arms in the Boshin War aged 22. She later served as a nurse in both the First Sino-Japanese War and Russo-Japanese War.

Image sources: wiki/LACMA; wiki/British Museum; wiki/Torstein Barnhardt; wiki/Library of Congress; wiki/Kikuchi Yosai; wiki/DWCLA inherited the leadership of the house of Tachibana in Kyushu after her father Tachibana Dosetsu (1513-85) died without a male heir. Not all of those women went into battle themselves, but there were plenty of (male) daimyo who did not personally take to the field either. Being a regional governor of this sort did not require your engagement in battle.

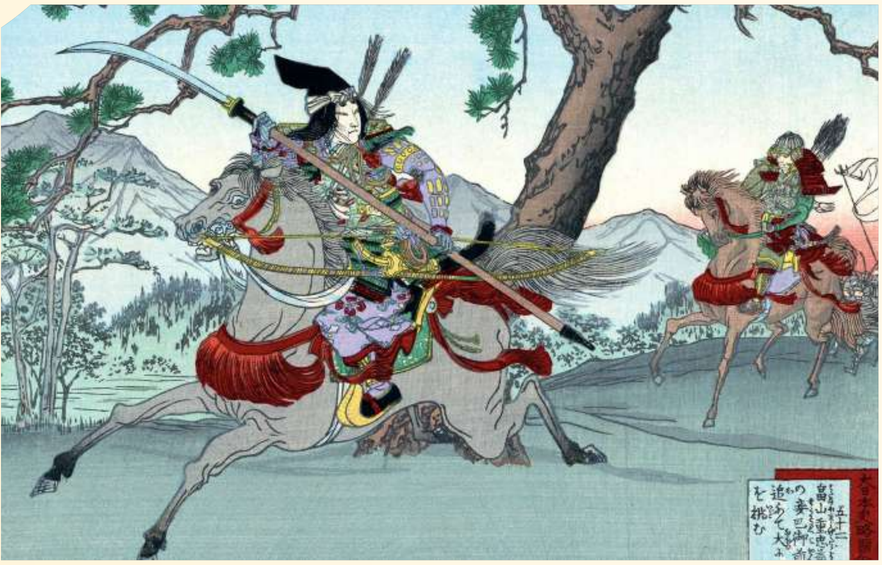
Others were skilled politicians and teachers of men who have become household names. Katakura Kita (1538-1610), whose male relatives were senior vassals to the house of Date, was a well-read, well-trained, well-connected person, arguably better educated and prepared for leadership than many of the men she knew. She helped guide the clan's policy and outside relations at Toyotomi Hideyoshi's court in Kyoto, and ensured that the clan stayed on Hideyoshi's good side amid the politicking and wars of the 1590s. Kita was also a wet nurse and first teacher in both literature and fighting arts to Date Masamune (1567-1636), the famed one-eyed xenophile warlord who founded the modern city of Sendai (now Sendai, Miyagi Prefecture). Kita thus had a critical role in building not only the clan's future but also, by extension, the future of northern Honshu. There are many more women like her in the histories of any major clan of that era, with or without skill in handling deadly weapons.

Other women in premodern Japanese military history were not quite so high in the samurai caste, but nonetheless established reputations for themselves as skilled practitioners of the martial arts as well as combatants. In some parts of Japan in the Edo period, basic proficiency in the martial arts was expected from women born to the warrior caste. This is not something separate from the world that the samurai caste built and inhabited, but rather was part and parcel of it. Even in domains like the northern Aizu domain (modern Fukushima Prefecture), where women's participation in politics was prohibited by law, women still pursued training in the martial arts. This was at the very least perfunctory, and for some, in greater depth. In times of emergency, they were some of the first on the street in the castle town to ensure the protection of their community.

The Aizu women were another excellent example as they also famously put their training to practical application in the Boshin War of 1868-69. Nakano Takeko (1847-68), who like Chiba Sanako was a skilled and certified martial artist in peacetime, is Aizu's most famous woman combatant. Her affiliation to the Aizu domain was by proxy, as she was from a family of Aizu vassals permanently assigned to the domain's estates in Edo (now Tokyo). She joined the fighting outside the castle walls during the siege in 1868, dying in combat there. Yamamoto Yae (1845-1932) came from a family of gunnery instructors and was a skilled sharpshooter and artillerist renowned for her physical strength even at a young age. She too took part in the fighting at the Aizu siege and was noted for her use of the Spencer cavalry carbine, a surplus weapon imported from the recently ended American Civil War. After the war, she went to Kyoto and devoted herself to the cause of women's education. Later, Yae married Niijima Jo, an American-educated pastor, and together with him was a co-founder of Doshisha University, which still stands in Kyoto today.

Finally, there are those women about whom our historical picture is the most incomplete. One of them was a female

**ABOVE** An actress poses in the armour of the Taira clan in the late-19th century



**RIGHT** Tomoe Gozen was famous for her skill as a mounted archer

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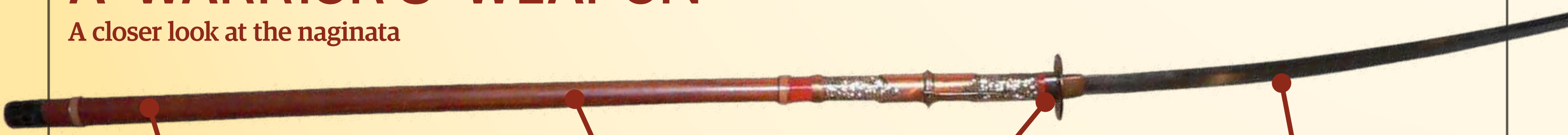
## A WARRIOR'S WEAPON

### A closer look at the naginata



Tendo-ryu bujutsu remains a popular form of martial art in Japan, primarily with women, with a number of public displays given in the form.

The naginata is believed to have been the preferred melee weapon for female warriors as it allowed them to use their centrifugal force to equalise any fight against stronger opponents.

The blade of a naginata could be up to one metre long and could also be mounted on a shorter handle to be used like a more traditional sword.

While this blade looks similar to that of a sword, the blade could also be much wider and curved, ideal as a cutting weapon to be swung around and used for middle-distance combat.

Image source: wiki/Rama

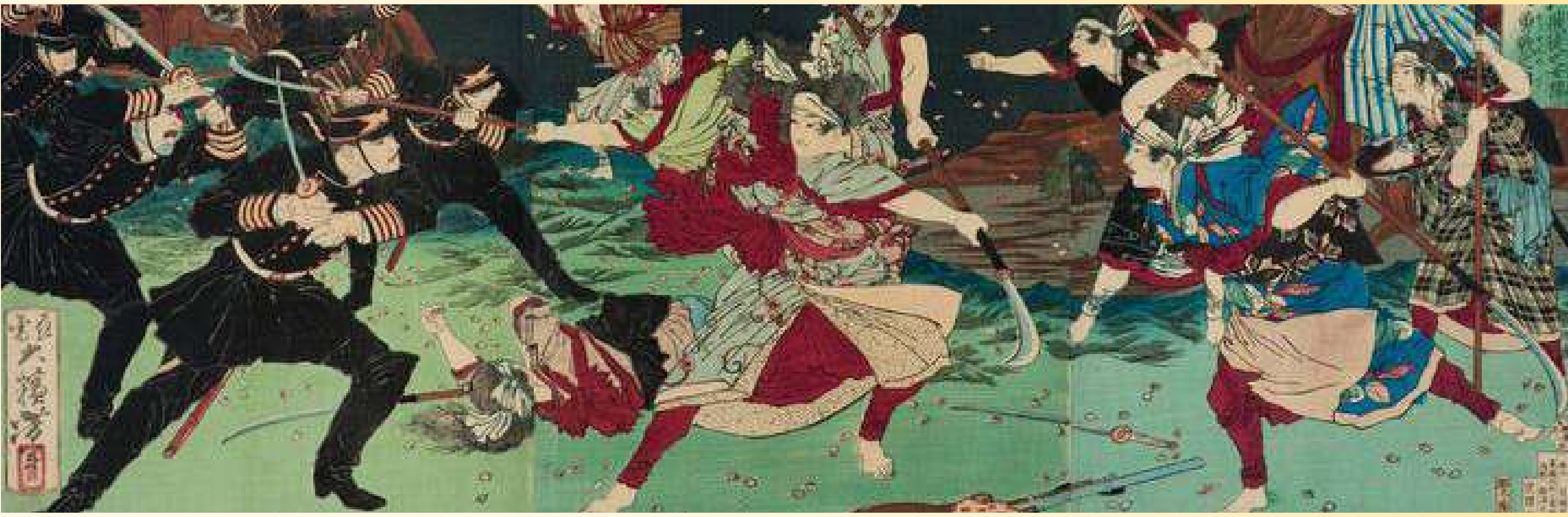


Image source: wiki/Yoshitoshi

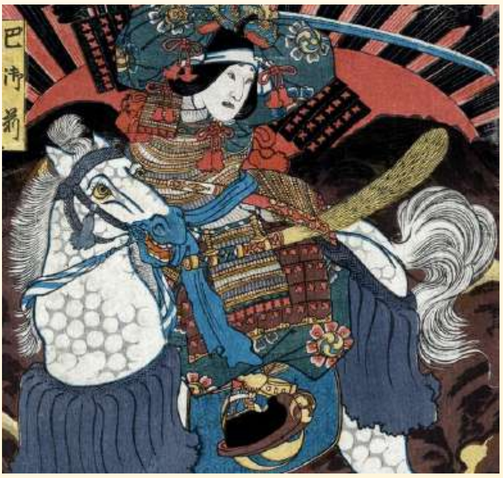
**ABOVE** **Women defended their city during the Kagoshima rebellion against the Meiji government**

warrior in Kokura domain. We don't know her name for sure, nor do we know whether she was of samurai birth and what, if any, training she'd accrued in the martial arts. What we do know is that when Choshu troops took the northern Kyushu castle town of Kokura during the Second Choshu War in 1865, she was the only person the Choshu men found in the evacuated and torched town. This woman, who waited in the estate of a senior Kokura clan retainer, was armed with a sword. A Choshu rifle squad raked the building with gunfire before entering, and she killed at least one before being mortally wounded. One story has it that she looked the men in the eye before ending her life with her sword, denouncing them for their cowardice.

> "She was the only person the Choshu men found in an evacuated and torched castle town"

Another woman who took part in the battles of 1860s Japan was Koike Shisetsu (1824-78). Again, our picture is incomplete, but in this case it was because she lived a wandering life. She was born in Kaga (modern-day Ishikawa Prefecture) and was actually an artist by training, specialising in a Chinese-influenced style of ink painting called nanga. Perhaps even more interestingly is our discovery that, in modern terms, she might be considered a member the LGBTQ community. But when the civil war of 1868 broke out, Shisetsu went north, taking part in the defence of Aizu alongside women like Nakano Takeko. Captured by the imperial army, she was released when it was discovered that she was not otherwise affiliated with the Aizu domain. Shisetsu went to Toyohashi, part of modern Aichi prefecture, and lived there for the rest of her life, continuing her work as an artist. Why did she go to Aizu, a place with which she had no prior affiliation? What prior experience did she have in handling a weapon, if any? These are worthy questions, and since she's never had more than a brief biography in various biographical dictionaries, Shisetsu is one historical figure whose story remains fascinating, and for which we will need to continue to search for further clues.

In short, the historicity of the term onna bugeisha notwithstanding, women combatants have always been part of military history, be it in Japan or anywhere in the world. Their place in the world of the samurai caste, in peacetime as well as at war, was integral. Their stories are there for the finding, if only we do due diligence in searching for them, especially in rich local histories and abundant local records. And in our search for those stories, it behooves us to ask why these tales seem to have been buried and why there are biases in both the source material as well as in modern interpretations of that source material. This, too, will help guide our further study and return these brave warriors to the place in history that they so clearly deserve.



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**ABOVE** **Tomoe Gozen depicted taking on military commander Wada Yoshimori**

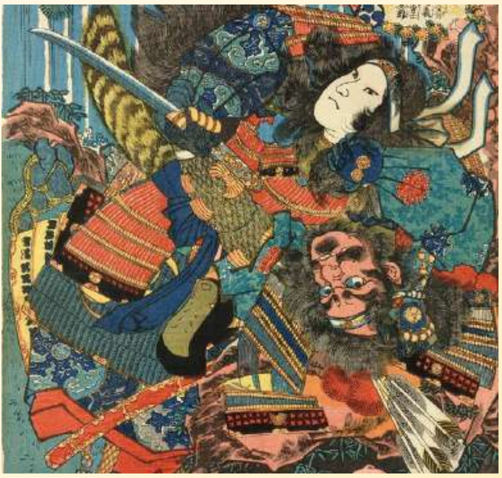

Image source: wiki/British Museum

**ABOVE** **Tomoe Gozen defeats a Taira warrior during the Yoshinaka campaign**

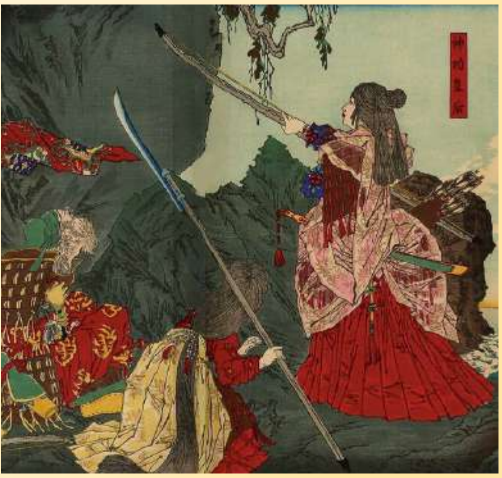

Image source: wiki/Waseda University Theatre Museum

**ABOVE** **The legend of Empress Jingu tells the story of a warrior queen**

AL MURRAY
THE LAST 100 YEARS
(GIVE OR TAKE) AND ALL THAT
A Misremembered Journey through the 20th Century to Today

## EXPERT BIO

Al Murray studied history at Oxford University before pursuing a career in comedy. He is the co-host of the WWII podcast *We Have Ways of Making You Talk* with historian James Holland and has written several books, the most recent being *The Last 100 Years (Give or Take) and All That* from Quercus Books.

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# "YOU CAN'T HAVE HISTORY WITHOUT BIAS"

### Award-winning stand-up comedian Al Murray discusses his passion for history and why we shouldn't fear rewriting it

**Written by Jonathan Gordon**

**"We're actually living in a history book," Al Murray exclaims as we begin to chat about his love of history and his own new book *The Last 100 Years (Give Or Take) And All That*.** "They're definitely going to read about us." Chatting via video call in late-2020 demands an acknowledgement of the moment we're in and some speculation of what's to come. "The shelves will be groaning in 2150 and they'll be different schools. There'll be an intentionalist school and there will be a rationalist school, there will be a Marxist interpretation, it will be fantastic. It's brilliant. We made it!"

If that hasn't made it clear already, Murray has a deep affection for history and the study of history. Best known for his award-winning stand-up comedy and Pub Landlord persona, he is also a keen historian, with podcasts and TV shows that delve into British history. We were delighted to chat with him about his love of historical study and how he went about writing his book. ▶

***First, could you tell us a little about your history background? How far did you pursue it academically?***

I grew up in a family that does history. My father and my mother, that's what they read mainly. My father, in particular, is very, very interested in Second World War histories and is actively working at a museum called the Soldiers Of Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock. He writes for a regimental magazine and all of that sort of thing. So I grew up in a house where this is what you talked about, this was the thing that you were interested in. We didn't go to football, we didn't go to cricket, we went to Normandy or Waterloo.

At school I was just into it and did an O-level and an A-level and then went to do a degree in history at Oxford. That was really where the subject and I kind of parted company because I was done with study by the time I got there. When I got to uni the issue became that I wanted to study history but really only the things I was interested in, rather than having to do the Enlightenment or de Tocqueville or whatever.

I really didn't invest in it at all in the three years I was there and it has been more that my family has kept me engaged with it. There's nothing else to talk about with my father. That's what's kept me into it and I am massively fascinated in the Second World War for all sorts of reasons. As you grow older you realise that the event and the historiography of the event and its place in our culture is so massive and complex.

***What role does studying history play in your life today and what do you take from it?***

I do find it really rewarding to read it now, mainly because I'm getting to pick what I want to read. You're not having to grind your way through another thing about French agriculture in the 18th century. If I want to read about the development of armoured warfare in Normandy and how the British weren't crap at it after all then I can fill my boots doing that. My Kindle is groaning with history books, it really is.

***What was your impetus to write this book?***

Well, that got started because of lockdown really. I was meant to be on tour this year. I had a long history routine in the show, but I was meant to go on the road and didn't happen, of course, so then it turns into, "Well, what am I going to do?" In the course of growing up on history, the Sellars and Yeatman book [*1066 and All That*] was a thing I really know well and was one of the early funny books that I was fascinated by.

The challenge of writing this kind of book was one that you sort of jump at. Only a fool would try and write another *1066 And All That*, so I said yes! But right from the start it's not going to be in their style, I'm not going to try to ape their style because I'm not a parodist, I'm not a pastichist. I tried to write a thing that did what they did, which is write something kind of like what history textbooks are like now.

***How do you approach using history for humour?***

I think that dealing with history with humour is actually pretty straightforward. It's actually like writing history. You have your editorial, you have your tone, you have the things that you're interested in, your angle. All history is written like that. No one would want to admit it quite that baldly. So I thought, "What's the angle here?" Well, the angle is I'm going to say I'm biased. I'm

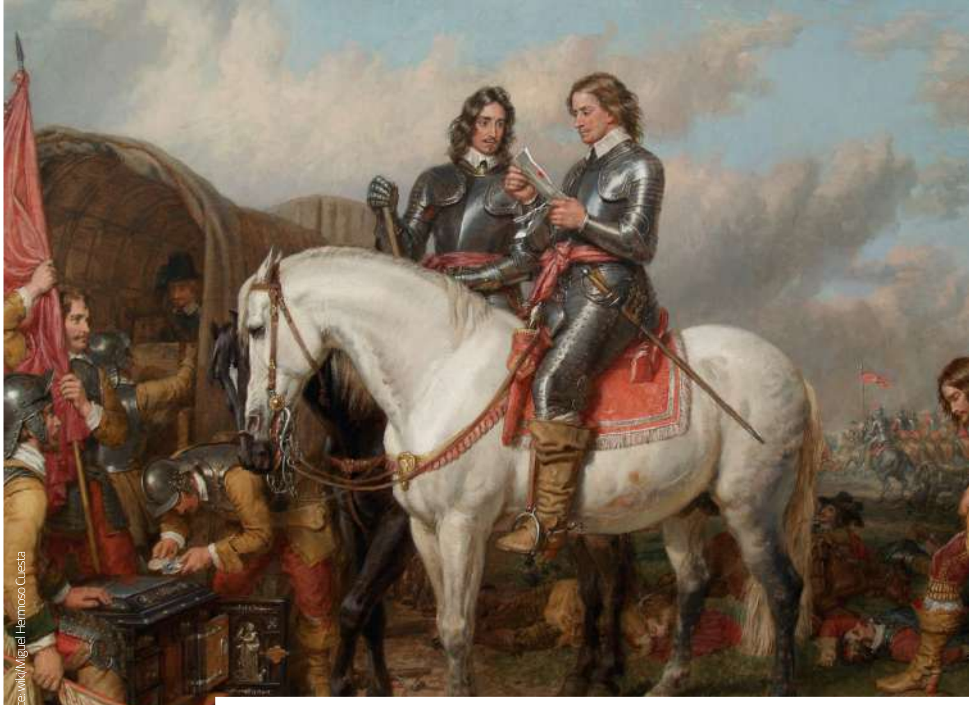

Image source: wiki/Miguel Hermoso Cuesta

Image source: wiki/srpskatribina.net

**ABOVE** Can the English Civil War be reinterpreted with a post-9/11 view of the world? Of course, and it could be quite revealing too

**ABOVE-RIGHT** Growing up, Murray's family would visit historical sites of significance, such as Waterloo

Image source: wiki/West Midlands Police

**"THINGS THAT ARE LONGER AGO TEND TO BE FUNNIER"**

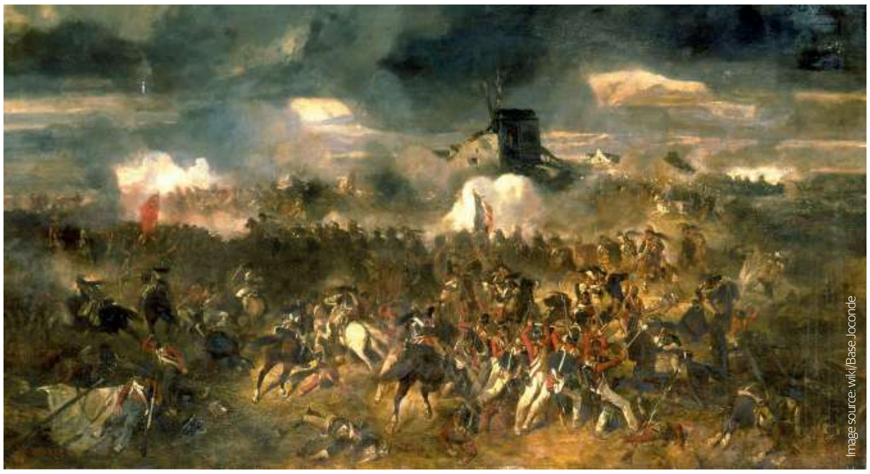

Image source: wiki/Base Joconde

**ABOVE** Members of the Black Hand presumably discussing how important it is their cyanide capsules are still in date

**LEFT** Was sex only invented after The Beatles' first LP? Perhaps the past wasn't as buttoned up as we think

going to say that I'm not interested in some things. I'm going to try and do some of the things that happen in history books.

I wanted it to be a bit inside out and have some of the workings on show, but for humorous reasons. Then also, the First World War is fascinating as the event that sets [up] everything. Where we are right now is completely set in motion by the First World War. If you want to prove the idea of chaos theory, that if a butterfly flaps its wings in Brazil it causes a typhoon in China, it's Gavrilo Princip shooting the archduke. He never imagined that three years later the Soviet Union would come into existence or that Australia via the Gallipoli campaign would experience birth-of-a-nation growing pains or a telegram to Mexico would draw America into a war. It's bananas. Just those four years set in motion what would happen for the next 20, which causes the Second World War and we're still living in this country, just about, in a post-Second World War polity. If you don't know how that arrived, you'll never understand why it works the way it does now. So you think, "Alright, but where are the laughs?" And the laughs are the Black Hand's attempts to assassinate the archduke; it's really funny. The first guy gets it wrong, tries to kill himself by taking cyanide, the cyanide doesn't work, he throws himself into a river and it's two inches deep so he can't drown… it's funny. It's funnier because it's more than 100 years ago as well. Happening right now it wouldn't be that funny. That's one of the licenses you have, that things that are longer ago tend to be funnier.

***Are there any historical subjects that you feel could never be made funny?***

Well, yeah. I mean, there are historical subjects that I think that *I* can't make funny, but other people can. Inevitably people talk about the Holocaust as the centre point of an argument like this. Some people have been able to tell funny jokes about that. I can't do it and so I'm not going to waste my time or anyone else's trying. You almost get into an intersectional argument about who can tell jokes about what that comedians would rather we didn't end up in, because you end up being shut down and not able to joke about anything. Hitler, for instance, is an interesting thing to be making jokes about, because a lot of people think you shouldn't joke about him at all. But then how do we tackle someone like that who in lots of ways is, face value, ridiculous? Especially if you're trying to write a funny book. Often the discourse around him is ridiculous. In an awful lot of history you're writing about the discourse around someone rather than who they are, what they are, what they represent and what they mean to people instead of what they even did. That's where your funnies come in.

# FUNNY BOOKS FOR HISTORY LOVERS

Some alternative takes on the past for you to enjoy

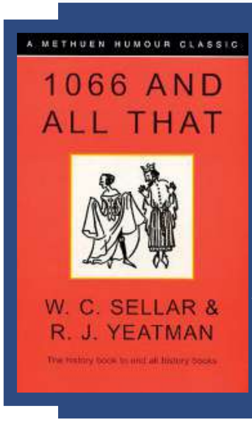
A METHUEN HUMOUR CLASSIC
1066 AND ALL THAT
W. C. SELLAR & R. J. YEATMAN
The history book to end all history books

Image source: Methuen

## *1066 AND ALL THAT*

### BY WC SELLAR AND RJ YEATMAN (1930)

An inspiration to Al Murray's own book, *1066 And All That* is a satirical exploration of English history that first appeared in *Punch* magazine. It pokes fun at the style of history writing of the time as well as how it was taught.

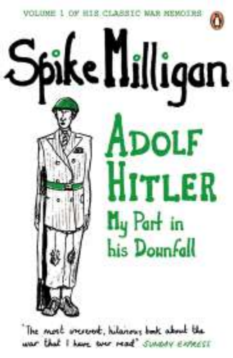
VOLUME 1 OF HIS CLASSIC WAR MEMOIRS
Spike Milligan
Adolf Hitler
My Part in his Downfall
'The most irreverent, hilarious book about the war that I have ever read' SUNDAY EXPRESS

Image source: Penguin

## *ADOLF HITLER: MY PART IN HIS DOWNFALL*

### BY SPIKE MILLIGAN (1971)

The creator of *The Goon Show*, Milligan served as a signaller during WWII, but also entertained troops with his stories and songs. This is a mix of memoir, diary extracts and sketches of his experiences of the war.

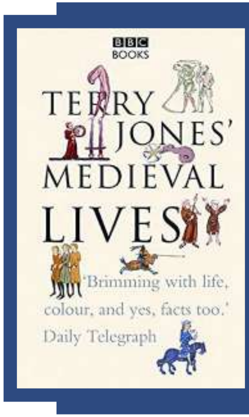

Image source: BBC Books

## *TERRY JONES' MEDIEVAL LIVES*

### BY TERRY JONES AND ALAN EREIRA (2004)

Revealing the real experiences of people in the Middle Ages, Jones and Ereira look to debunk some of the commonly held myths about the period and point out where so much of the misinformation came from.

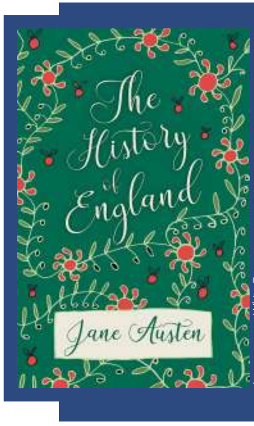

Image source: White Press

## *THE HISTORY OF ENGLAND*

### BY JANE AUSTEN (1791)

Did you know Austen wrote a history book when she was only 15? Well, she did and it's full of jabs at various kings and queens as well as the style of history textbooks of her era. It's a fun and fascinating piece of writing.

© Getty Images

“IN THE BLITZ EVERYONE ARGUED WITH EVERYONE AND THERE WAS AN INCREDIBLY ROBUST AND DIVERSE DISCOURSE”

***Tell us how you feel about the idea of learning lessons from history?***

People who aren’t particularly interested in history will ask what are the lessons of history? History is far more interesting than just some sort of fables. History isn’t Aesop and it’s far more interesting when it isn’t Aesop. It’s far more interesting when it’s complex. You’ll learn much, much more about humanity and people and how societies work and what governments can achieve and are capable of and all of those sorts of things.

What are the lessons of history? Well, all year we’ve had the Covid pandemic being compared, mainly in the newspapers, to the Second World War. This is mainly because the only two bits of history people know in popular terms are the Blitz and the six wives of Henry VIII and you can’t compare the Covid pandemic to the six wives of Henry VIII, so you’ve got to go Blitz on it. We have had Brexit, which has been compared to the Blitz or Henry VIII’s break with Rome. There have been more events in the last 500 years than those two moments! 1536 and 1940, yes, but plenty else has happened in the intervening years, for God’s sake!

When you look at people complaining about wearing a mask and complaining about vaccinations and complaining about limits of power, a great deal of the public discourse in 1939 and 1940 was about the blackout. Conscription had been brought in and had been a massively hot potato, because after all Appeasement wasn’t even cold by the time that the actual world crisis, the strategic earthquake, happened in 1940. One of the lessons you could look at from history is not that in the Blitz we all pulled together, but that in the Blitz everyone argued with everyone and there was an incredibly robust and diverse discourse even though the newspapers were much more buttoned down than they are now. So maybe we’re not that different in that respect rather than we’re not that different because we just do as we’re told and we’re the Brits and we’re the best at sweating our way through a crisis. It’s much more interesting than that pop lesson that people want to learn.

**ABOVE** Should we make fun of Adolf Hitler? Murray has an interesting approach to his role in the last 100 years

***Do you imagine that in the history of 2020 they’ll say we all came together for Brexit and the pandemic?***

Maybe that will be the story we tell. After all, that version of the Blitz is the story we’re telling about ourselves and when you tell stories about yourself you’re never in the wrong, you’re the hero of the event. “My divorce had nothing to do with me, I was completely reasonable throughout” – it’s like that. A lot of national history, which very often isn’t history at all, which is national storytelling or national self-image, is about telling yourself the comforting story rather than necessarily the truth. One of the things that we’ve really got into in the podcast that we talk about a lot is the Battle of Britain. If you investigate the idea of poor little noble plucky Britain on its own defending itself with just a few fighter planes, it falls apart very, very quickly. I’d rather say I was the underdog. I would rather say that I defeated the evil rolling Nazi war machine by being plucky and gritty rather than having prepared for exactly this event, having the systems in place, having better manufacturing, having a home advantage, the enemy being chaotically disorganised and unfocused and all of the things that actually explain the outcome. What do you want? Do you want history or do you want the cute story about yourself? And all too often people are so beguiled by the latter that they think that’s history.

***Were there any particular events that you were determined to make sure were included?***

Well, yes. It’s not really an event, but there’s a chapter about the invention of sex in the 20th century. I was a teenager in the 1980s and in the 1980s you were absolutely relentlessly culturally bombarded with the idea you had missed out because you hadn’t been a teenager during the 1960s. You’d missed out. Nothing was ever going to be that exciting anymore and, my God, everyone started having sex. Philip Larkin’s joking when he says ‘sex for me began in 1963 after the Beatles’ [in his poem *Annus Mirabilis*]. He was joking obviously, because it is quite absurd, this idea. The more you push back into history, the more you look at the history

Image source: wiki/ Imperial War Museums

**ABOVE** The Blitz is one of the most referenced historical events in popular British culture, but do we remember it correctly?

10 minutes to wait

Image source: wiki/National Archives

**RIGHT** Will we remember 2020 in the same way that the British wartime experience is often recalled?

VIVE DE GAULLE

Image source: wiki/Library of Congress

of mores and morals and families and relationships and all that. Again it's far more complex than simply people got married until they died; it's far more interesting than that. Far more complex. Again, far more like us. So that was the thing that I really wanted to write was that chapter where you're saying, "as far as historians can tell, there was no sexual intercourse before the 1960s. People talked about doing it during the 1920s, but then fortunately the Second World War interrupted them and stopped them from having any sex." I wanted to write a take on that because to be honest it's always been a thing that's completely mystified me that people have bought that idea.

***So much of our understanding of the world comes from the story previous generations told themselves, such as the prudish late-Victorian age.***

Absolutely. And after all, the Victorian era is an imperial project here at home as much as it is anywhere else. They're inventing this idea of themselves as imperial overlords who are somehow contained and they're emotionally trammelled and all of that sort of thing, because they need to be because they're in charge and they've got to make calm decisions. But also, the fact that they're endlessly talking about how they're not interested in having sex suggests one thing. I think that's a really interesting thing to consider.

***You mentioned earlier on about being open about your bias in the book. Could you talk a little about how you wrestled with that?***

The bias that the book has is it's a British history, which means it elides over a whole load of things. Bias is an inevitable thing and when I remember studying history at Oxford you do start to look at that. One of the first things you do is you get introduced properly to the idea of historiography rather than history and then you realise "Oh my God, this is a bigger subject arguably than history itself." The events are one thing, it's all the ink that's been spilt over them that's the other. But also how important that is because politicians often tool up on history and use it to inform their world view. Politics is certainly informed by perceptions of history. I always used to envy the people who could be as certain as Marxists, because I tend to agree with the last person I spoke to, I don't hold any firm views. It always used to amaze me that you could do the English Civil War like Christopher Hill, that you could turn the handle and feed the English Civil War in and you would get your bourgeois coming out of the mincer. I used to think that was amazing.

I think it's a crucial part of the historical debate that people have biases, because otherwise there's no debate. This of course has been a massive argument this past year, about rewriting history, the absurd idea that you shouldn't rewrite history. History is in a permanent state of rewriting. After all, look at the English Civil War: Paul Lay's books this year, *Providence Lost*, is a history of the protectorate and is told in a way that when I last had to trouble myself with the English Civil War 30 years ago doesn't bear any resemblance to the way he's writing about it. He's writing about it, you could argue, post-9/11 where we understand religious fundamentalism is a thing. It's real and when it expresses itself politically you can understand why people behave in ways that if you just try to look at them politically they don't make any sense of all. The sense of providence that they had, there was a guiding thing that they were predestined and when anything went well it was because they were the elect. If you feed that into the English Civil Wars or Wars of the Three Kingdoms or whatever you call it, it's a completely different thing. That's not rewriting history, that's going, "Hang on a minute, they were serious about the Bible the way we're not." Just because we don't understand religion in the way they did, doesn't mean we shouldn't have a think about that because they really did believe there were demons in the way we really know there aren't.

So you can't have history without bias. It's impossible.

**ABOVE** Murray has, in part, inherited his interest in World War II from his father

**BELOW** Gavrilo Princip's murder of Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria set much of the 20th century in motion, as Murray explores in his book

Image source: wiki/Cassowary Colorizations

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### *WATCHING WAR FILMS WITH MY DAD* (2013)

If you want to find out more about Murray's early life and how he came to be so fascinated with history, then this book is a great way to learn about it.

AL MURRAY
Watching War Films With My Dad
A Memoir

Image source: Arrow

### *WE HAVE WAYS OF MAKING YOU TALK*

Murray's excellent WWII podcast with celebrated historian James Holland has over 200 episodes covering every angle of the conflict.

We Have Ways of Making You Talk

Image source: Goalhanger Films

# THE FIRST ROMAN EMPRESS

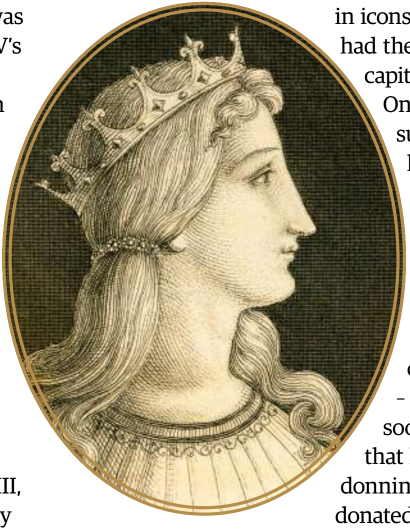
## Irene of Athens ruled in spectacular fashion: part saint, part stone-cold schemer

Written by Hareth Al Bustani

**In 768, a teenage girl called Irene arrived in Constantinople from Athens, accompanied by a fleet of warships loaded with silk.** There, she was met by the city's leading men and women, who walked her down to the imperial palace. Days later, amidst much pomp, a crown was placed upon her head, and with that she was married – to Emperor Constantine V's son, who would become Leo IV.

Born in 753, Irene may have been discovered through an eastern ritual called the bride show – introduced to the court by the emperor's wife, a Khazar princess. Officials scoured the empire for well-educated, exceptionally attractive women from reputable families, bringing them back to the capital and parading them past the groom, who simply picked his favourite. The adolescent Irene, though, was an odd choice. Since the reign of Leo's grandfather, Leo III, the Byzantines had pursued a policy of aggressive iconoclasm – suppressing religious imagery. Irene, in contrast, was a proud iconophile.

Ten years later, Constantine died during a campaign against the Bulgars. His iconophile opponents celebrated his demise, dubbing him the 'Dung Named'. To mitigate the power of his scheming brothers, the newly crowned Leo IV named his six-year-old son, Constantine, heir. From the outset, it appeared that Irene had a softening influence on her husband's iconoclast tendencies – he ended the persecution of monks and nominated a known iconophile, Paul of Cyprus, the patriarch in 780.



**ABOVE**
Irene was a staunch iconophile, working tirelessly to undo the Isaurian persecution
© Alamy

However, just two weeks later, when he caught his chief chamberlains smuggling in icons for Irene, he was enraged and had them whipped, paraded around the capital and forced into monkhood. One unlucky soul was flogged with such ferocity that he later died from his injuries. Hurt, the emperor viciously denounced his wife and refused to live with her thereafter. He neglected, however, to remove her iconophile supporters from his household and, that summer, he suffered a suspiciously rapid outburst of boils on his head – dying of an excruciating fever soon after. Irene circulated a rumour that her husband had perished after donning a crown that Heraclius had donated to the treasury of Saint Sophia, tarnishing his memory.

Their son, the nine-year-old Constantine VI, was named emperor, with his mother ruling as empress regent until he came of age. It would be a trying time. The last empress regent, Martina, ended up with her tongue cut out, exiled alongside her son – whose nose was slit. As a woman, Irene would have enough trouble controlling the army, but as an iconophile, ▶

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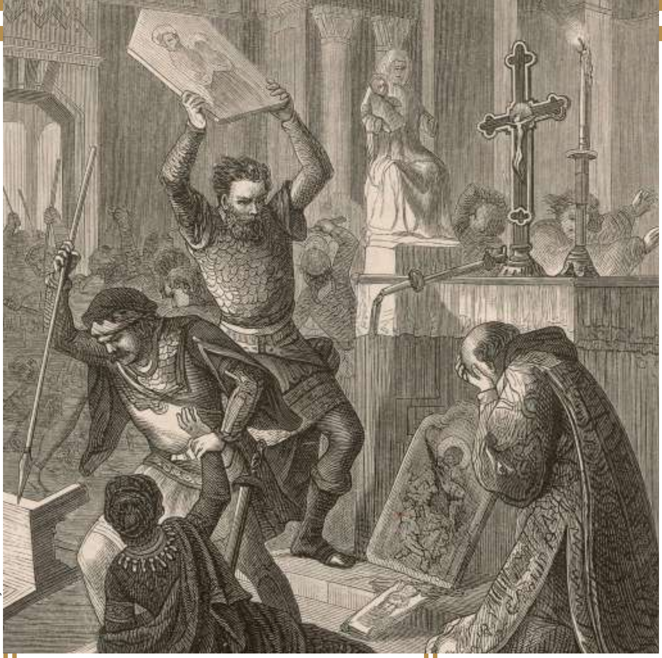


3x © Alamy

**ABOVE**
The Isaurian dynasty's violent campaign against iconography devastated relations with the papacy

doubly so. Not even two months into the regency her vast network of spies uncovered a scheme to replace her and her son with her brother-in-law, Nicephorus, who had already been stripped of his junior emperorship for conspiring against Leo. As a result, Nicephorus and his four brothers were forced into priesthood, rendering them ineligible for the crown.

Among the banished conspirators was the postal logothete – responsible for not only the postal service, but internal security and foreign diplomacy – who Irene replaced with her trusted eunuch, Stauracius. Moving swiftly, the empress began selecting iconophile bishops and even replacing hostile generals from the largely iconoclast eastern troops. When her governor in Sicily rose up in support of Leo's brothers, it was the palace eunuchs, not the generals, who crushed his revolt.

Yet this was just the start of her troubles. The Abbasid caliph placed his son Harun al-Rashid at the head of an army, 95,800 strong, that was sent raiding towards Constantinople. Though Stauracius brilliantly trapped Harun in a valley, the eunuch was handed over to the enemy by one of his own treacherous generals during negotiations. This forced the empress into a degrading peace treaty, with an annual ransom of 160,000 nomismata. Stauracius washed the stain of dishonour from his name in 783 with a bold campaign across Thessalonica to Peloponnesus, where he defeated the Slavs, rounding up spoils and tribute aplenty. Sensing a propaganda victory, Irene toured Thrace with her son Constantine, renaming a city Irenopolis, and travelling as far as Philippopolis, taking more Thracian territory in a year than Constantine V had in his whole reign.

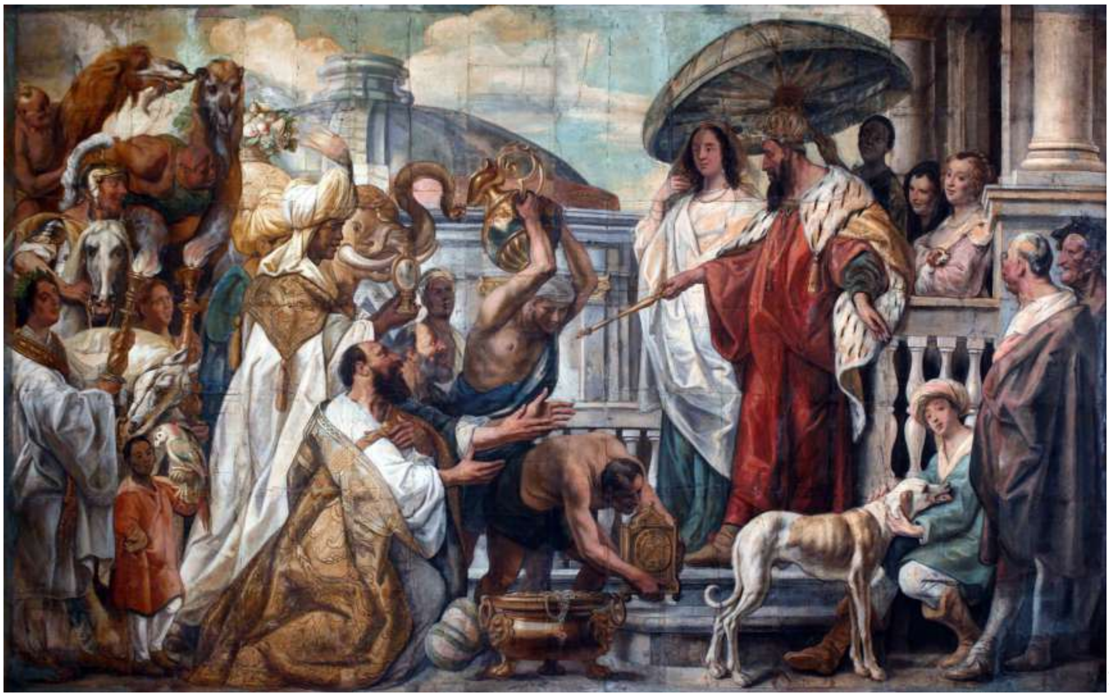
Military glory in tow, when the patriarch Paul died, Irene replaced him with the imperial secretary Tarasius, an unapologetic iconophile. Though the layman's appointment caused a stir, it extended an olive branch to the long-estranged papacy and eastern churches. Irene invited representatives of the churches to an ecclesiastical council in Constantinople, a controversial grand unveiling of her return to the iconophile doctrine. Signalling her growing position of power, the empress stopped paying the Abbasid tribute and destroyed their base at Adata, before touring Thrace once again. Though such exploits won over Constantine V's generals, the common soldiers were still beholden to his legacy. When the council opened its doors on 17 August, a group of imperial guardsmen burst into the Church of the Holy Apostles, threatening to kill anyone who didn't leave.

In the aftermath, a seemingly defeated Irene declared a renewed eastern campaign against the Saracens. She ordered the riotous unit eastwards, and replaced it with loyalists, commanded by Stauracius. In a political masterstroke, the empress personally led another army to the Bithynian camp where the mutineers were stationed, and disbanded them. Finally, she reconvened her council at Nicaea to avoid dangerous temperaments in the capital, with the added propaganda value of calling it the Second Council of Nicaea. There, at Irene's insistence,

## THE ICONOCLASM

'The Isaurian' Leo III ascended to the purple in 717, after forcing the abdication of his predecessor, Theodosius III. Inheriting the empire in a fragile state, he harboured deeply iconoclastic views, believing that icons or images should only be used to portray human subjects – any attempt to depict the divine would be tantamount to idol worship. This view was particularly prominent in the east, where most soldiers came from, and thereby shored up his support among the generals.

In 726 he went so far as to forbid representations of all saints, martyrs and angels, removing 'miraculous' icons and relics that had long been celebrated in the western provinces. It had been a controversial subject, one that had provoked harsh denunciations from the papacy, sparked riots in Constantinople and even led to rebellion in the Greek islands. When the icon of Christ Antiphonetes was removed from the capital's Chalke Gate, officers were beaten to death by a mob of devout women, sparking a brutal response. Leo's son Constantine was even more intolerant than his father, penalising monks – who treated icons with particular reverence – with exceptional severity.  Monasteries were destroyed and monks made to marry, with some offenders even tortured, blinded and executed. In this manner, the army, government and clergy were, on the surface, brought into line with the emperor's iconoclast leanings. West and east, however, remained more divided than ever.



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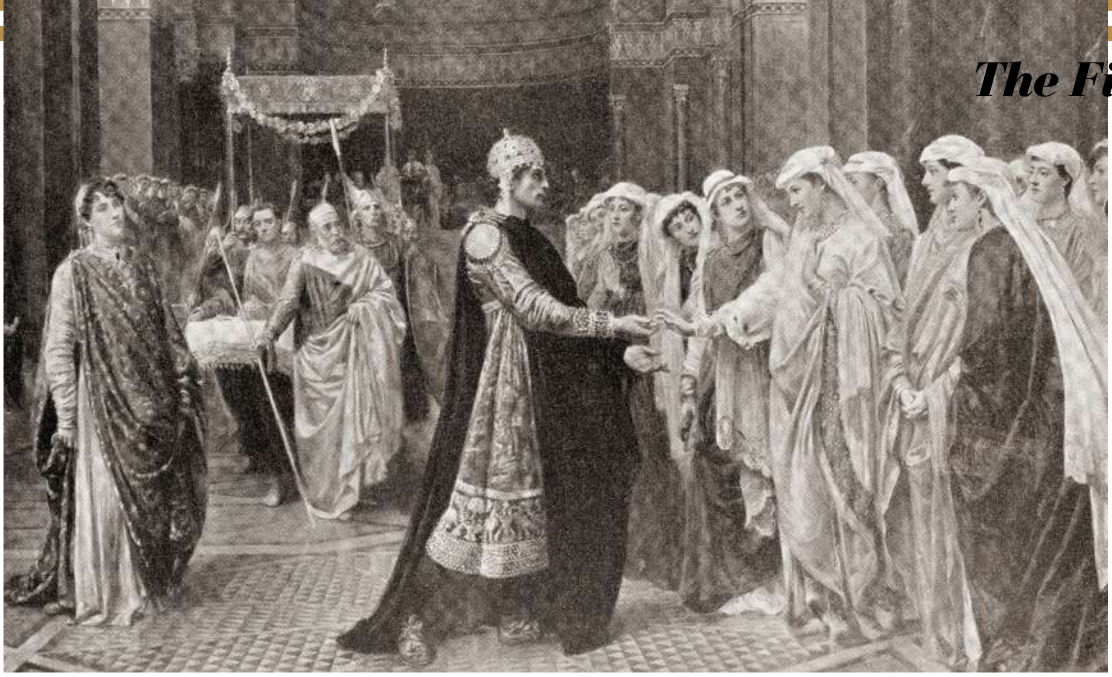
**BELOW**
Irene's empire was sandwiched between two powerful contemporaries, Harun al-Rashid and Charlemagne



“IN A YEAR IRENE TOOK MORE THRACIAN TERRITORY – RENAMING ONE CITY IRENOPOLIS – THAN CONSTANTINE V HAD DONE IN HIS WHOLE REIGN”

iconoclasts were given the opportunity to recant, before returning to Constantinople, where the empress and her son signed the acts in purple ink. After six decades of iconoclasm, the monks could breathe again.

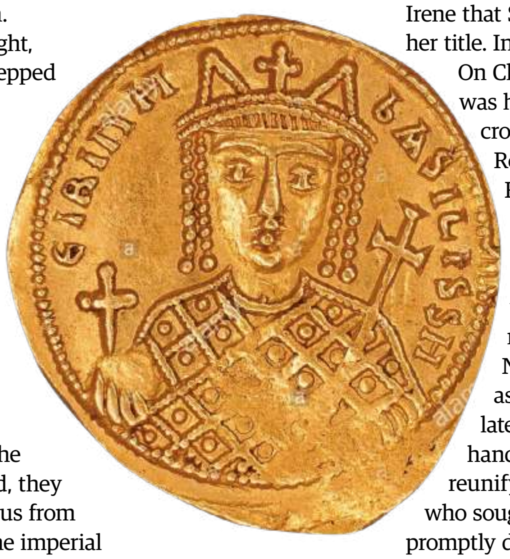
It was a major coup for the empress, one that deserved to be celebrated – with a wedding for her 16-year-old son. He was betrothed to Rotrude, the daughter of Charlemagne, but when Irene asked the Frankish king to send his 13-year-old east, he declined, claiming he would miss her too dearly. Instead, Irene and Stauracius opted for the bride show, scouring the empire for a suitable wife before settling on a saint's granddaughter, Maria of Amnia.

As the emperor came of age, it seemed Irene's work had been done. However, with the capable Harun succeeding his brother as caliph and Charlemagne in control of the papacy, these were dangerous times that called for strong leadership. Irene may have been a woman, but her son was immature and weak. He had not only allowed his mother to choose his wife on his behalf, he also let her rule in his stead. After the birth of his daughter, though, Constantine grew to resent his wife, and his mother even more. For a young emperor it was humiliating to live beneath the yoke of a mother with little heed for his imperial, or personal, sovereignty.

After some military setbacks at the hands of Muslim raiders, Bulgars and even the Franks, popular favour gravitated towards Constantine who, in turn, began plotting against Stauracius. The eunuch, however, was a step ahead. After he revealed the conspiracy to the empress, she slapped Constantine across the face, grounded him indefinitely and had the army vow to keep him from power so long as she lived. The Armeniac theme, the most powerful Anatolian military province, revolted, and when Irene sent an officer, Alexios Mosele, to bring them to heel he was instead nominated their leader, proclaiming Constantine the sole emperor. After the other four Anatolian themes followed suit Irene acquiesced, releasing her 19-year-old son.

Finally gaining the limelight, Constantine immediately stepped back into the shadow of his mother. Though she was confined to her living quarters, her supporters all retained their posts. After feeble campaigns against the Abbasids and Bulgars in 792, the emperor released her, recalled Stauracius and commanded his soldiers to recognise her as his fellow emperor, even imprisoning Alexios when the Armeniacs refused. Appalled, they conspired to recall Nicephorus from the church and hand him the imperial purple. Irene and Stauracius, however, beat them to the punch: they had Constantine blind Nicephorus and slit the tongues of his other uncles, rendering them all unquestionably ineligible. For his unwavering support, Constantine foolishly had Alexios blinded and, after quashing the Armeniacs, discharged thousands, branding their faces ‘Armeniac Conspirator’, allowing the Muslims to raid the undefended border.

**ABOVE**
Born in Athens, Irene was likely discovered during an empire-wide ‘bride show’



**ABOVE**
After blinding her son Irene ruled as sole emperor, rather than empress

Constantine, long fed up with his wife, scandalously ‘divorced’ her and remarried. Before long the civil, religious and military establishments shifted back into Irene's sphere of influence. When the Muslims, sensing weakness, raided Anatolia once again in 797, the empress and her allies decided something had to be done about her weak son. After barely surviving an attempt on his life at the Hippodrome, Constantine was caught trying to flee across Anatolia and hauled back to the Purple Chamber, the room he had been born in. There, a group of Irene's agents blinded him in a manner so brutal that he later died an agonising, lingering death.

With that, Irene had become the first woman to rule the Roman Empire. But it was a hollow victory, one that sent her health and spirit into a landslide. Striking coins celebrating her sole rule, she referred to herself not as empress but emperor, an unprecedented move that left many questions hanging over her sovereignty. Hoping to silence her detractors, she handed out generous donatives and exempted the church from levies.

But Irene still had not won over the army, who in 798 allowed the Muslims to romp all the way to the Aegean coast, leading to a humiliating resumption of the tribute agreement from 782. Soon after, as the emperor suffered a serious illness, her new eunuch advisor Aetius convinced Irene that Stauracius was plotting to usurp her title. In truth, Stauracius was dying.

On Christmas Day in 800, the empire was humiliated when the pope crowned Charlemagne ‘Imperator Romanorum’ – Emperor of the Romans. Desperate to salvage some prestige, Irene handed out further donatives and abolished trade duties in the capital, which her ambitious finance minister, coincidentally named Nicephorus, loudly trumpeted as a financial disaster. Two years later, Charlemagne offered her his hand in marriage and a chance to reunify the Roman Empire. Aetius, who sought power for his brother, promptly derailed the proposition. His plots were in vain. When the sickly Irene retreated to her Palace of Eleutherios, the finance minister Nicephorus kidnapped her and had the people proclaim him emperor instead. Irene lamented: “I blame my destruction on my sins.”

After a momentous 22-year rule, Irene was exiled to Lesbos and died a year later. Though no saint, she was later canonised by the Orthodox Church for putting an end to the religious tyranny of iconoclasm.

Victorious Japanese troops celebrate their triumph in the Philippines after Corregidor was subdued

Greatest Battles

# FALL OF BATAAN

## BATAAN PENINSULA, CENTRAL LUZON , 6 JAN – 9 APRIL 1942

Written by Miguel Miranda

Toughened by years of combat in mainland China, Japan's powerful military was poised to carve up Southeast Asia during the summer of 1941. Strategists understood that dominating Asia meant seizing the Strait of Malacca on one end together with an archipelagic nation on the other – the Philippines. So the high commands in Tokyo and Washington DC readied themselves for a mighty struggle.

Even after months of frenzied preparation, the United States Armed Forces in the Far East (USAFFE) was completely unprepared for the Japanese onslaught on Luzon, the Philippines' northernmost landmass. The former Spanish colony had been under American control since the turn of the century. In 1935 it was granted quasi-independence as a 'commonwealth' while

© Getty Images

garrisoned US forces were responsible for national defence. In the last month of 1941, however, the leadership of General Douglas MacArthur and other highly regarded generals was cast in doubt.

In Clark Field, B-17 bombers and fighters were left outside their hangars for a possible pre-emptive strike on Formosa (now called Taiwan), where intelligence indicated a build-up of Japanese air and naval assets. On the morning of 8 December, just after news of the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor reached the USAFFE leadership, bomber formations appeared from nowhere and laid waste to the idle American aircraft. The USAFFE was slow to react, and the Japanese army's air fleets were able to attack first. From that moment on, the sizable US garrison in the Philippines struggled to mount an earnest defence of the entire archipelago.

In the weeks after the raids on Clark Field and nearby Fort Stotsenburg – a barracks for the US Army – Japanese pilots managed to control much of Luzon's airspace, and at least two small-scale amphibious landings were carried out to test local defences. On 22 December a fleet appeared in the Lingayen Gulf carrying General Masaharu Homma's 14th Army. On 17 December 1941 he departed Formosa with his 43,110-strong invasion force, dreading an American counterattack once they reached Luzon.

MacArthur assigned General Jonathan M Wainwright to command the North Luzon Force that enjoyed the lion's share of artillery and armour – 100 M3 light tanks that had arrived months before. There was also a South Luzon Force, a Harbor Defence Force in Manila, a Far East Air Force, a Visayas-Mindanao Force, a Reserve Force, and the combined strength of the Philippine Scouts and the Philippine Constabulary. The Philippine army was mobilised as well, with a manpower pool estimated to reach 100,000 men. Unfortunately, in stark contrast to the well-provisioned Americans, Filipino soldiers lacked sufficient firearms, training and uniforms.

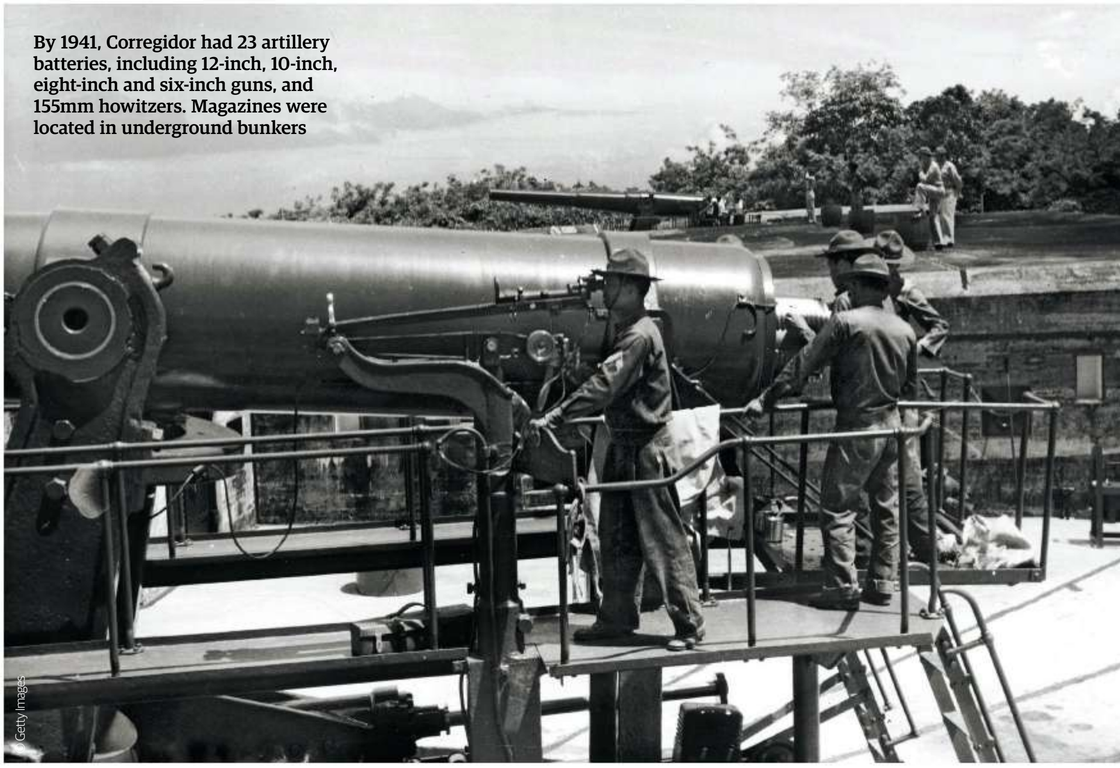
## WPO-3

As each of the North Luzon Force's hastily prepared defensive lines crumbled in the days following the Lingayen landings, MacArthur decided it was best to concentrate his forces in a last-ditch attempt to hold the Philippines until help arrived. This scenario was known to US commanders as War Plan Orange, Plan Orange or simply WPO-3, and involved using Luzon's geography to the defenders' advantage. Rather than disperse the USAFFE over the jungles and mountains in Luzon's extremities, which is what American-led guerrilla units later did during the occupation years, Plan Orange required a single bastion to withstand a very long siege.

Once MacArthur and his staff, along with an ailing Philippine President Manuel L Quezon, had relocated to the island fortress of Corregidor, which guarded the entrance to Manila Bay, the North Luzon Force fought minor delaying actions until enough supplies reached Bataan. This effort proved wasteful, since nearly all the American tanks and significant numbers of heavy artillery were either abandoned or lost in the process. Entire bases were given up as well, such as the naval depot in Subic Bay and the aerodromes in Clark Field and Nichols Field just outside Manila. Bridges and roads were either dynamited or booby-trapped. Tons of food and fuel were left behind in the headlong rush southward.

In the span of just 15 days, what used to be the North Luzon Force fought a delaying action, reorganised its entire structure and established fortifications in the Bataan Peninsula. As the rest of USAFFE's manpower poured in, along with countless refugees, Bataan's territory was reorganised. The peninsula was halved between two new formations, I Corps under General Edward P King in the west and II Corps under General George M Parker in the east. Then each corps subdivided its territory into sectors joined by overlapping fortified lines. The main battle position stretched from the town of Mabatang in the east to the town of Mauban in the west. A physical barrier to offensive operations was provided by Mount Natib, whose peak still remained unoccupied.

Several kilometres behind the main position was the rear battle position, covering the lower half of the peninsula. The rear battle position was the last line of defence for the supplies stockpiled in the service command area, which had access to Corregidor via boat from the town of Mariveles.



By 1941, Corregidor had 23 artillery batteries, including 12-inch, 10-inch, eight-inch and six-inch guns, and 155mm howitzers. Magazines were located in underground bunkers

Getty Images

Homma's 14th Army launched its attack on Bataan a week into the new year, but it soon became bogged down with heavy casualties as less experienced Japanese army units were thrown into the maelstrom.

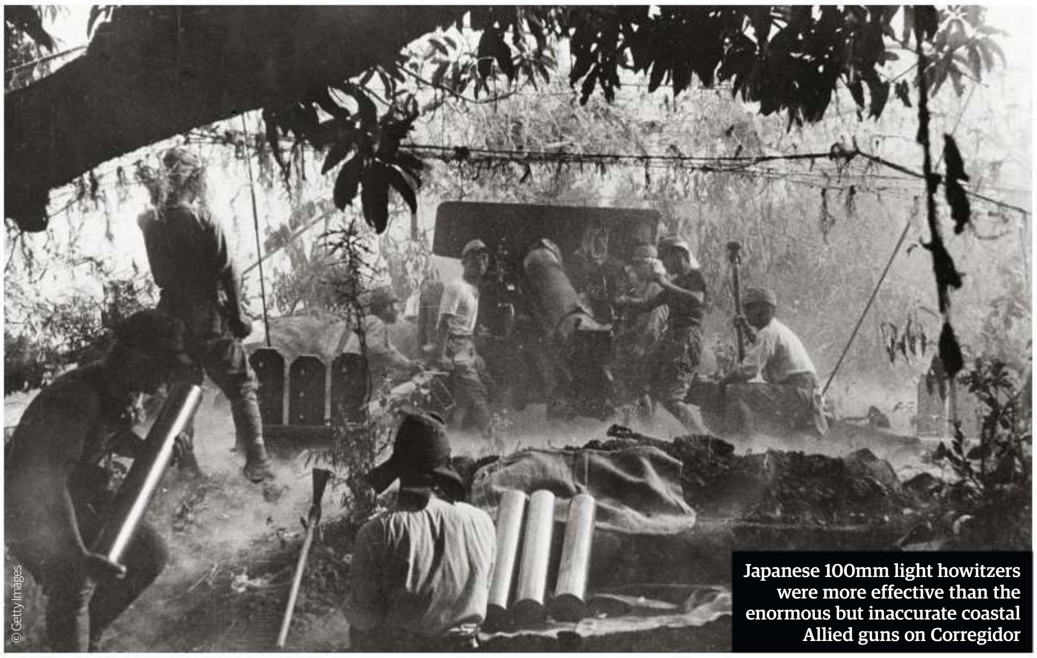
## HOLDING STEADY

But the initial victories against the Japanese were short-lived. The reality of the situation was that Homma's troops were exhausted from their sprint across Central Luzon, which had a negative effect on their morale. Homma was aware the 40,000 men in his expedition were stretched thin. It didn't help that the Imperial Command Headquarters in Tokyo had mandated a 50-day campaign to subdue the entire Philippines. As the dreaded 50th day neared, Homma approved ever more daring tactics.

On 23 January three Japanese regiments departed Subic Bay and the coastal town of Moron to launch an attack on Bataan's western flank, which formed part of the service command area. A series of coves became landing areas densely held by Japanese infantry. So flawless was the infiltration that it took a few days before the American forces arrived in force to block them.

What became known as the Battle of the Points failed, and Homma's exhausted 14th Army ceased major combat operations for the rest of February. Homma shortly received fresh manpower and supplies: the elite 4th Division led by Lieutenant General Kenzo Kitano arrived from Shanghai, together with an artillery regiment from Hong Kong. An additional 60 medium bombers flew into Luzon to cement Japanese air superiority. As a dull stalemate settled over Bataan, hunger and disease began to take its toll. The stocks of food were rapidly diminishing and American servicemen suffered as a result. The Filipinos fared a little better, since they knew how to scavenge around the countryside for sustenance.

Unknown to the famished defenders was MacArthur's plan for a covert exit from the theatre. As soon as a seriously ill President Quezon was evacuated from Corregidor by submarine and brought to Australia, preparations were underway for MacArthur's own departure. On 12 March the general and his family, accompanied by his staff, boarded four PT boats and set course for Mindanao.



Japanese 100mm light howitzers were more effective than the enormous but inaccurate coastal Allied guns on Corregidor

© Getty Images

Command of all operations in the Philippines was to be directed by General Wainwright, who was placed in charge of the newly minted United States Armed Forces in the Philippines, or USAFIP.

### SURRENDER AND THE 'DEATH MARCH'

The hammer fell on the morning of 3 April. Japanese howitzers and mortars opened up on the main battle position's northeastern sector and were soon joined by medium bombers of the 22nd Air Brigade. The pounding lasted until noon, and brush fires sent tongues of fire swirling in the hellish smoke. Infantry, supported by medium tanks, broke through two demoralised Filipino divisions, which triggered a wholesale collapse of II Corps. Japanese officers had Mount Samat in sight within just a day and a half.

Knowing that Bataan was lost, General King informed his staff that he would reach out to the Japanese the next morning. Under no circumstances was his superior, General Wainwright, who had vainly ordered a counteroffensive, to be informed of this. Accompanied by his aides, King travelled to the Japanese lines around Mount Samat and requested an audience. King was informed that dialogue was only possible with the highest ranking Japanese officers at the front – Major General Kamaechiro Nagano along with Colonel Matoo Nakayama.

The impromptu conference lasted a mere hour, and Bataan was finally lost at midday.

The sudden panic that accompanied the fall of Bataan meant Corregidor's population swelled as several thousand stragglers sought refuge on the bomb-ravaged island. In an effort to vacate the battle area with utmost haste, the Japanese assembled the prisoners of war for a long trek. It was imperative to incarcerate them as soon as possible, but the makeshift prison in Camp O'Donnell was more than 100km away in Pampanga and many prisoners were killed on the way for being sick and injured; or they simply died from starvation, thirst, disease or forced labour.

It was three years before MacArthur took his revenge as commander of the South West Pacific Area. In February 1945 he beheld the ruins of liberated Manila and watched paratroopers retake Corregidor and root out Japanese diehards. At the end of the war Masaharu Homma, who had

The ruins left on Corregidor, along with a memorial to American servicemen

Image source: wiki/National Archives

## USAFFE

Image source: wiki/Deutsches Bundesarchiv

### GEN. DOUGLAS MACARTHUR

MacArthur suffered a series of humiliating disasters after he was recalled to active duty in 1941 and took over American forces in the Far East. As Bataan fell he and his family escaped south to Australia, along with his staff, where he was made Supreme Commander, Southwest Pacific Area.

Image source: wiki/Deutsches Bundesarchiv

### MAJ. GEN. JONATHAN M. WAINWRIGHT

Wainwright was MacArthur's senior field commander when the Japanese invasion of the Philippines began, and took over from him as Allied commander in the Philippines when he became Supreme Commander. Wainwright was ultimately forced to surrender to Japanese forces in the hopes of minimising casualties.

Image source: wiki/Jagiellońska Biblioteka Cyfrowa

### MAJ. GEN. EDWARD P. KING

While he led the defence of the Bataan Peninsula with the combined US and Philippine forces, having taken over from Wainwright when he was promoted, he entered a deteriorating situation. With supplies depleting, he disobeyed orders by surrendering his force of over 75,000. Many would die in the Death March that followed.

## IMPERIAL JAPANESE ARMY

Image source: wiki/Library of Congress

### LT. GEN. MASAHARU HOMMA

The Battle of Bataan proved to be one of the most brutal of the war in the Pacific and General Homma was leading things on the Japanese side. However, he was not well liked among his own superiors and was replaced shortly after. All this was after the deaths of thousands of American and Filipino prisoners of war.

Image source: wiki/fotohistoria.pl

### COL. MASANOBU TSUJI

The first of many brutal atrocities inflicted on prisoners of war from Bataan has been attributed to Tsuji, who ordered the execution of between 350 and 400 captured Filipino officers and NCOs. He also ordered the execution of American prisoners, which was against the orders of General Homma.

been discharged from the military, was arrested and brought back to the Philippines. He stood trial in Manila as the 'Beast of Bataan' with sole responsibility for the Bataan Death March. He was executed by firing squad on 3 April 1946.

## LESSONS LEARNED

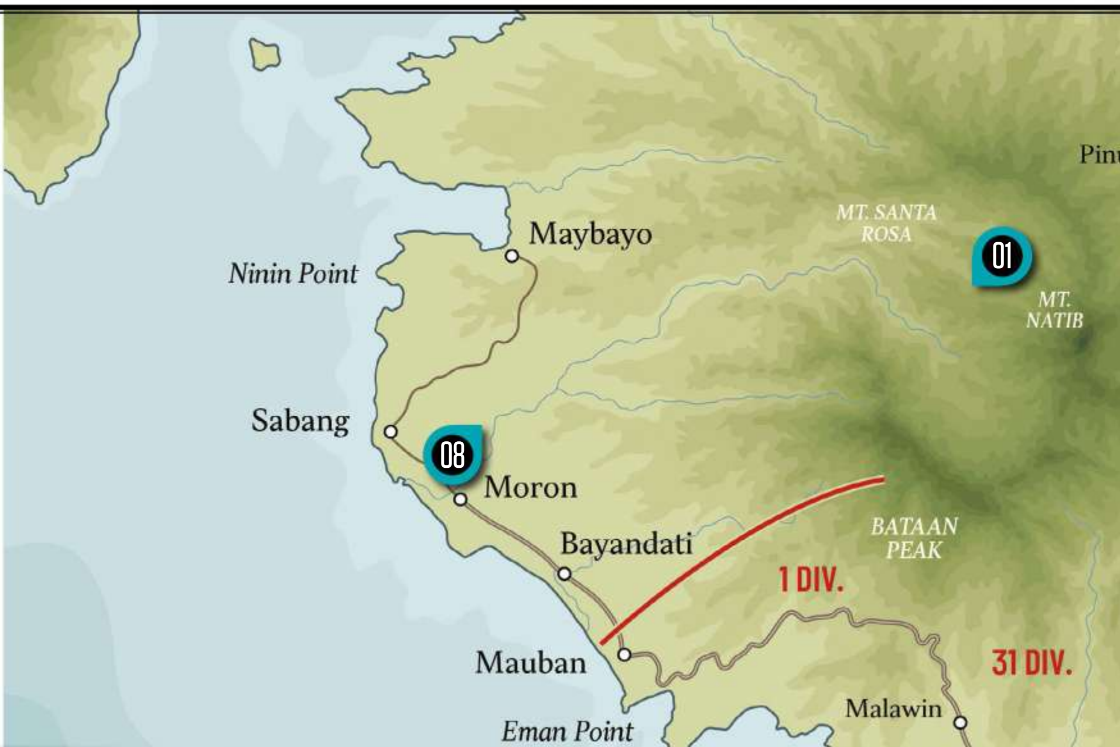
After the war, Bataan was either remembered as a testament to the Filipino-American alliance or as a sterling example of American heroism and sacrifice in a faraway land. What was less emphasised, of course, was the suffering imposed on those left behind after the battle.

But the lessons of Bataan should never be forgotten. It was the costliest military defeat ever suffered by the US military in a modern conflict. While the debacle at Kasserine Pass in February 1943 is often remembered as an infamous setback against the Axis powers, the loss of the Philippines took a greater toll. In terms of casualties, several thousand Americans and perhaps three times as many Filipinos were killed during the struggle for Luzon. The surrender of Bataan and Corregidor a month apart meant as many as 80,000 prisoners of war were condemned to endure years of brutal captivity and privation, and it's estimated 20,000 of them died as a result.

The material losses in Bataan, as well as the rest of the Philippines, were severe. Lost to the Japanese were more than 100 tanks and just as many armoured vehicles, 200 combat aircraft, several hundred artillery pieces, tons of fuel and spare parts stockpiled in Luzon's military bases. Seventeen million Filipinos suffered under the yoke of Japanese rule. To cite other reversals in subsequent wars, such as the Chosin Reservoir in Korea or the siege of Khe Sanh in Vietnam, is moot. These are skirmishes compared to the knockout punch the Japanese army landed on the USAFFE and the USAFIP in 1942. If there are lessons to be learned from Bataan, a few valuable insights stand out. Foremost is the importance of adequate preparation. The Philippine Commonwealth already had a National Defence Act in 1935 that mandated a standing army, yet it wasn't until 1941 that the army was properly organised under American leadership.

The failure of intelligence-gathering is another factor. Despite evidence of Japanese preparations, USAFFE didn't anticipate an attack on Luzon. A less apparent factor that contributed to American defeat was the quality of its arsenal. Soldiers were equipped with kit from World War I, including Enfield rifles that were no longer mass produced. The artillery on Corregidor dated to the late 19th century, and except for the P-40B Warhawk, the Far East Air Force flew inadequate aircraft against the Japanese air fleets that descended on Luzon.

Understanding the tragedy of defeat matters, because its lessons are essential for upholding peace in troubled times. With the risk of war among the modern great powers still haunting the Asia-Pacific region, the fall of Bataan should serve as a stark reminder to never underestimate one's enemy.



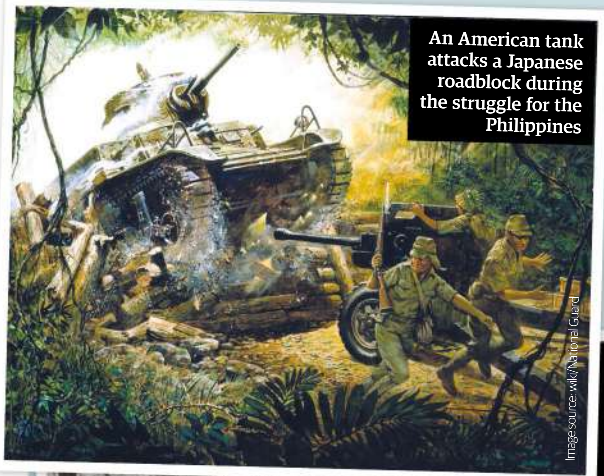

An American tank attacks a Japanese roadblock during the struggle for the Philippines

Image source: wiki/National Guard

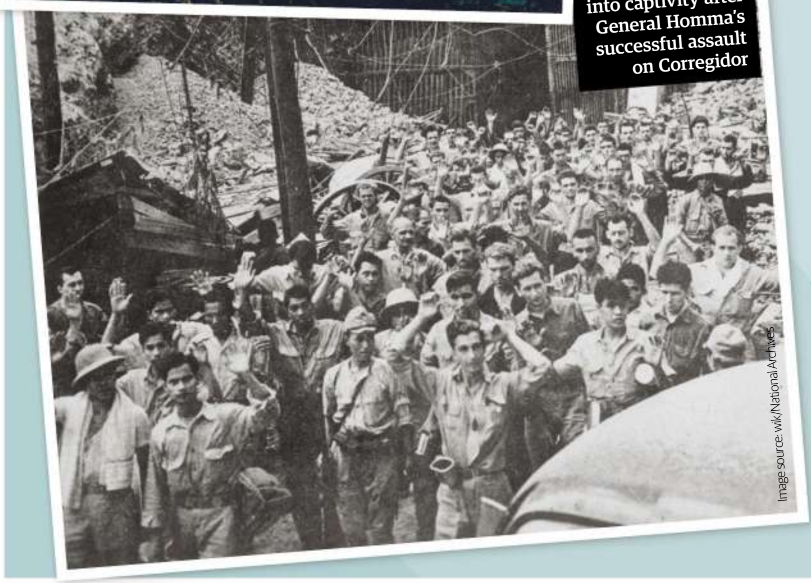
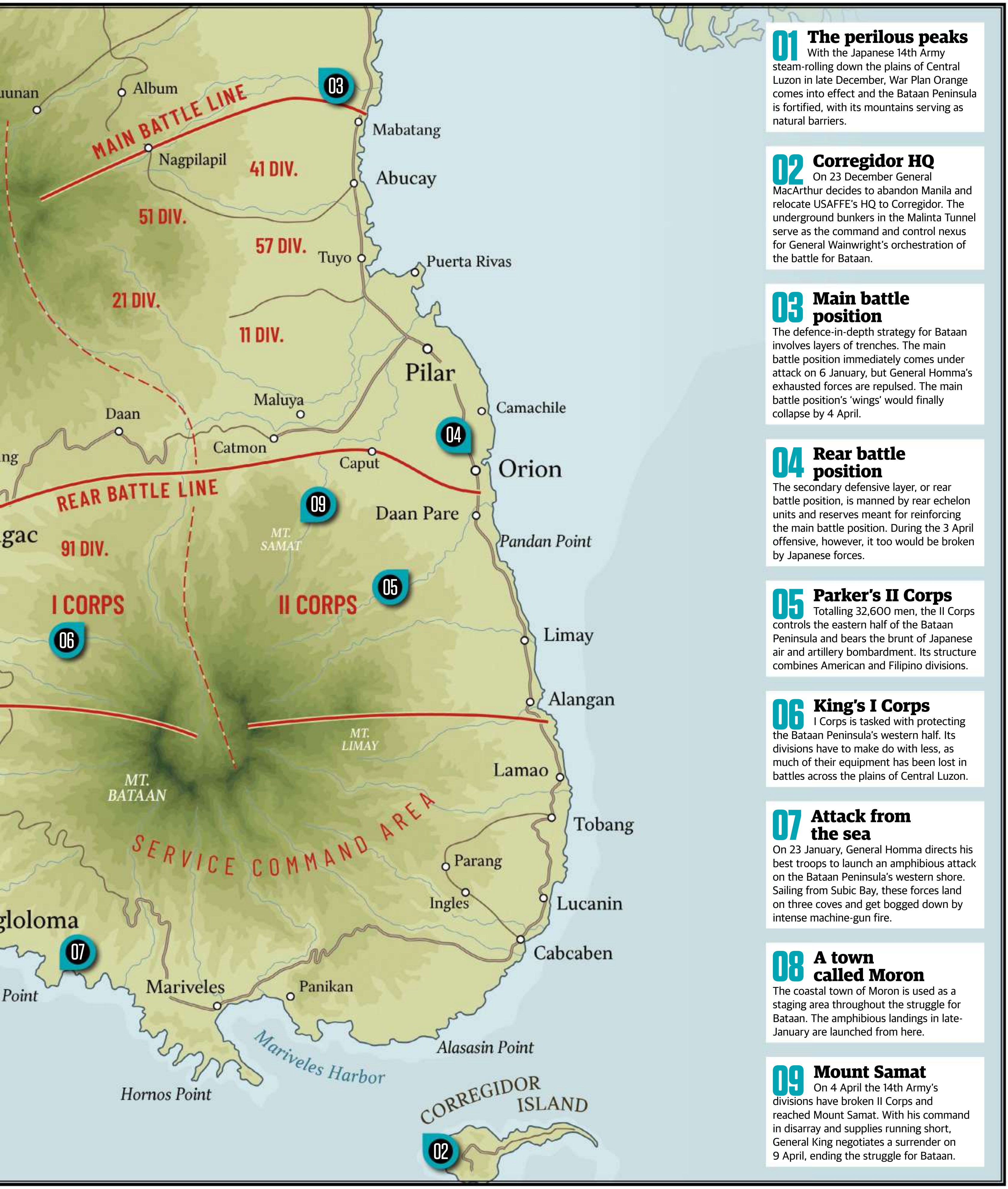

A month after the surrender in Bataan, another 10,000 Americans went into captivity after General Homma's successful assault on Corregidor

Image source: wiki/National Archives

## 6 JAN – 9 APRIL 1942



unan
Album
03
MAIN BATTLE LINE
Mabatang
Nagpilapil
41 DIV.
Abucay
51 DIV.
57 DIV.
Tuyo
Puerta Rivas
21 DIV.
11 DIV.
Pilar
Maluya
Camachile
Daan
04
Catmon
ng
Caput
Orion
REAR BATTLE LINE
09
Daan Pare
gac
MT. SAMAT
91 DIV.
Pandan Point
05
I CORPS
II CORPS
06
Limay
Alangan
MT. LIMAY
Lamao
MT. BATAAN
SERVICE COMMAND AREA
Tobang
Parang
Ingles
Lucanin
gloloma
07
Cabcaben
Mariveles
Panikan
Point
Mariveles Harbor
Alasasin Point
Hornos Point
CORREGIDOR ISLAND
02

## 01 The perilous peaks

With the Japanese 14th Army steam-rolling down the plains of Central Luzon in late December, War Plan Orange comes into effect and the Bataan Peninsula is fortified, with its mountains serving as natural barriers.

## 02 Corregidor HQ

On 23 December General MacArthur decides to abandon Manila and relocate USAFFE's HQ to Corregidor. The underground bunkers in the Malinta Tunnel serve as the command and control nexus for General Wainwright's orchestration of the battle for Bataan.

## 03 Main battle position

The defence-in-depth strategy for Bataan involves layers of trenches. The main battle position immediately comes under attack on 6 January, but General Homma's exhausted forces are repulsed. The main battle position's 'wings' would finally collapse by 4 April.

## 04 Rear battle position

The secondary defensive layer, or rear battle position, is manned by rear echelon units and reserves meant for reinforcing the main battle position. During the 3 April offensive, however, it too would be broken by Japanese forces.

## 05 Parker's II Corps

Totalling 32,600 men, the II Corps controls the eastern half of the Bataan Peninsula and bears the brunt of Japanese air and artillery bombardment. Its structure combines American and Filipino divisions.

## 06 King's I Corps

I Corps is tasked with protecting the Bataan Peninsula's western half. Its divisions have to make do with less, as much of their equipment has been lost in battles across the plains of Central Luzon.

## 07 Attack from the sea

On 23 January, General Homma directs his best troops to launch an amphibious attack on the Bataan Peninsula's western shore. Sailing from Subic Bay, these forces land on three coves and get bogged down by intense machine-gun fire.

## 08 A town called Moron

The coastal town of Moron is used as a staging area throughout the struggle for Bataan. The amphibious landings in late-January are launched from here.

## 09 Mount Samat

On 4 April the 14th Army's divisions have broken II Corps and reached Mount Samat. With his command in disarray and supplies running short, General King negotiates a surrender on 9 April, ending the struggle for Bataan.

Map by: Battlefield Design

# THE KAPP PUTSCH HAD SUCCEEDED?

In 1920 Wolfgang Kapp and Walther von Lüttwitz tried to seize control from the fledgling Weimar Republic. What if they had prevailed?

**Written by Callum McKelvie**

INTERVIEW WITH

© AK Bennett

**ERIC WEITZ**

Eric Weitz is a Professor of History, specialising in modern German and European history. He is the author of *A World Divided: The Global Struggle For Human Rights In The Age Of Nation-States* and *Weimar Germany: Promise And Tragedy.*

**What was Germany like in the two years following World War I?**

Germany was very divided and fragmented, and the shadow of the war hung over everything. Two million German soldiers were dead, another three million wounded - psychically as well as physically. The defeat itself was highly contested. German troops had been in France and far into Russia, so some extremists claimed that Germany had never been defeated. It was a totally specious claim because there were no resources left to fight. But that's the infamous stab in the back legend, that the Jews and socialists and other people at home caused the defeat, not the military itself. But the other issue, which is often neglected, is that these were also years of great hope and opportunity. And they were based in the revolution of 1918 began by sailors who were needed in the last weeks of the war, at the German port of Kiel. And then the revolution spread throughout the country, sent the Kaiser packing into ignominious exile in the Netherlands, and sent the other princes and kings packing. They all had to abdicate or run out of office. There were great democratic hopes and those hopes were for many people fulfilled in the Weimar Constitution.

**Who were Wolfgang Kapp and Walther von Lüttwitz?**

General Walther von Lüttwitz was a general who served in the army in World War I and Kapp was a high-level civil servant in East Prussia. They were representative of the not-yet-Nazi, but fairly radical, old school right wing elite. This group despised the Weimar Republic, despised democracy, despised Jews, claimed Germany had never been defeated in the war, and wanted more than anything else to overthrow the Republic. The social welfare state had introduced a greater degree of individual liberties and Germans had never experienced this before. Kapp and Lüttwitz wanted to establish a kind of military dictatorship composed of a broad class of powerful old elites, industrialists, army officers, big landowners, Prussian nobles and the Hugos. So that's who they were in brief.

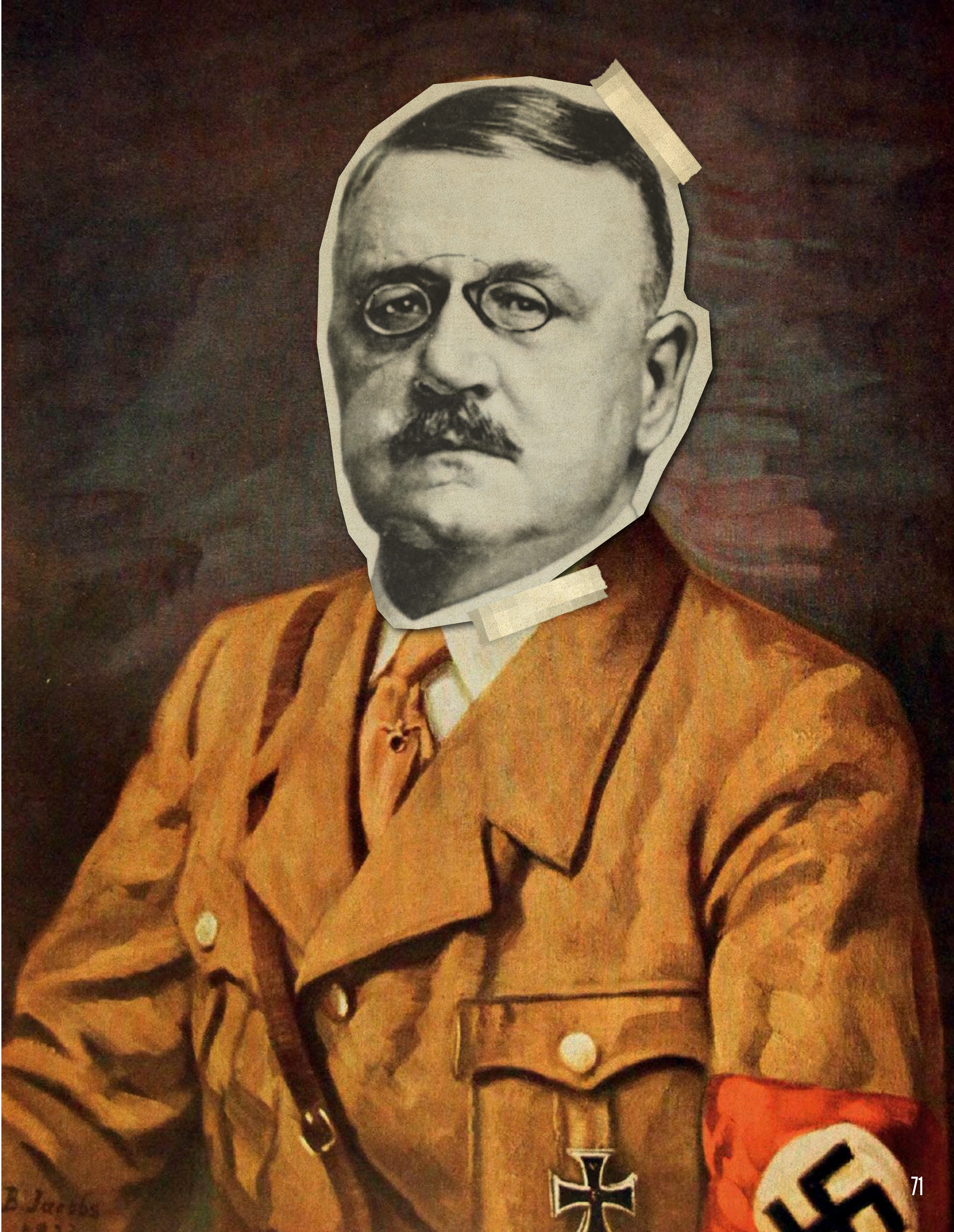
**Why did the putsch occur in 1920?**

Because they thought it was time to move. There were still many, many strikes going on in Germany and still many popular left wing demonstrations. Kapp and Lüttwitz basically thought it's now or never. So amid the turmoil, and indeed, there was great turmoil in Germany in these early years, they decided that it was time to act. It's that simple. It's not like there was a precipitous event, either domestically

© Getty Images

**RIGHT** Soldiers during the Kapp Putsch

**Main image sources:** © Alamy, © Getty Images


B. Jacobs

# THE PAST

## 1914-18

### GERMANY IN WWI

Despite Germany's political parties overwhelmingly voting for War Credits, resulting in a wave of euphoria and excitement sweeping the nation, no one could have foreseen the horror to come. By 1915, some 11 million young men (18% of the population) were in military service. However, the fighting quickly turned into a war of attrition, with very little land being taken by either side. General Ludendorff and Hindenburg showed little interest in negotiating a peace and soon the country became divided. In 1918, Ludendorff launched a major offensive that was able to gain some ground, but with the army exhausted the arrival of two million American troops meant they were quickly forced to retreat.

## 1918

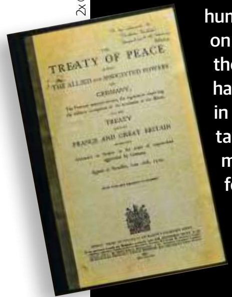
### KIEL MUTINY

In October of 1918, the attitude of the public (who wished for peace) and the elites (who wished to continue fighting) was exemplified through the events of the Kiel mutiny. Despite some negotiations already being in progress, the German Naval Command attempted to launch a final attack against the British – mostly to win back prestige. However, the sailors were able to recognise a suicide mission when they were given one and refused. The order was issued five times and was disobeyed in each instance. Some 1,000 sailors mutinied but by this time socialist groups began to spread across the country. On 9 November, as a result of this and the end of the war, Kaiser Wilhelm II was forced to abdicate.

## 1919

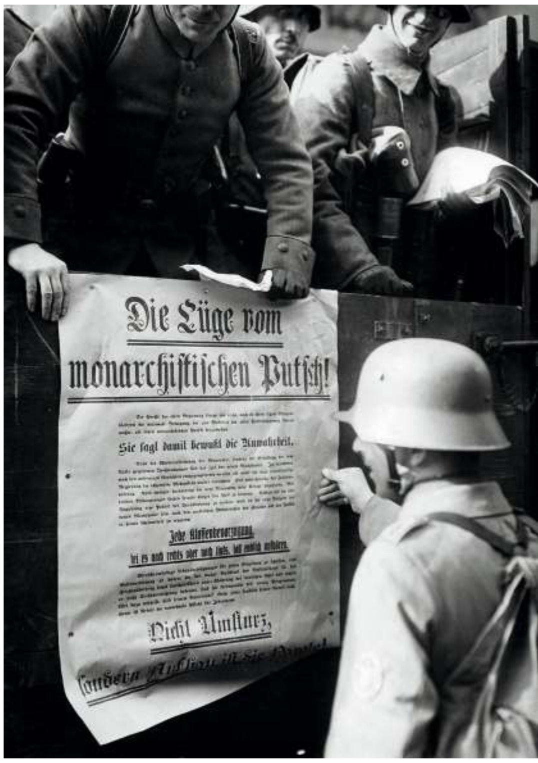
### REPARATIONS

The Treaty of Versailles, the peace treaty at the end of the war, was in some ways a humiliating and crushing revenge on the Germany people. Among the various clauses, the country had to pay 132 billion gold marks in reparations, a debt that would take 92 years to pay off. Perhaps most significantly, Germany was forced to take full responsibility for the war – a war which had killed some 1,773,700 of its young men.


TREATY OF PEACE
GERMANY,
TREATY
FRANCE AND GREAT BRITAIN

2x © Getty Images

3x © Getty Images


Die Lüge vom
monarchiſtiſchen Putſch!
Sie ſagt damit bewußt die Unwahrheit.
Jede Klaſſenbevorzugung,
ſei es nach rechts oder nach links, muß endlich aufhören.
Nicht Umſturz,
ſondern

**ABOVE** The public read the latest news during the putsch

**RIGHT** The putschists holding a poster

or internationally. They just took the bull by the horns at that moment.

**What took place during the putsch?**
Kapp and Lüttwitz got hold of some army units called the Freikorps, who were extreme right wing paramilitary units that operated in part with the consent of the republican government because they were used to quell extreme left wing disturbances. So Kapp and Lüttwitz got this group armed along with regular army units and marched on Berlin. They are able to seize control of the main government offices and the Social Democratic-led government fled. However, the trade unions called a general strike and that stopped everything dead. Trains and buses stopped moving, everything stopped. Kapp's forces couldn't even get access to the state finances because they were blocked by striking workers. Further out in the country in the industrial areas like Prussian Saxony, Halle, Leipzig, workers went on strike and started organising red brigades. A 10,000-man Red Army developed, designed to defend the existing government and to save the republic. But for many more radical workers, their demands went much further than simply supporting the existing government. They wanted a government composed only of representatives of the labour parties, and a government that would institute further social reforms. Meanwhile, the regular army officer corps did not completely support the putsch, but neither did it support the government. So the regular army stood to one side and watched, and that was pretty despicable. The government and the trade unions started negotiating and came up with a plan for a somewhat more left-leaning government but that never quite took place. The government was able to return to Berlin. However, out in the heavy industrial areas the right wing paramilitaries and some regular army units began to carry out counter-revolutionary terror against striking workers. The Weimar government actually allowed this to happen because these workers who were on strike who formed the Red Army were deemed too radical. There were hundreds of summary executions and imprisonments that took place in the heavy industrial

> “The vibrant Weimar culture that we still recognise would never have come to pass”

area. So the putsch itself failed and the government retook power, but it’s reshaped. However, one of the long-term costs was that the more radical workers became completely alienated from the republic itself.

**Could the putsch have succeeded or was it always doomed to fail?**

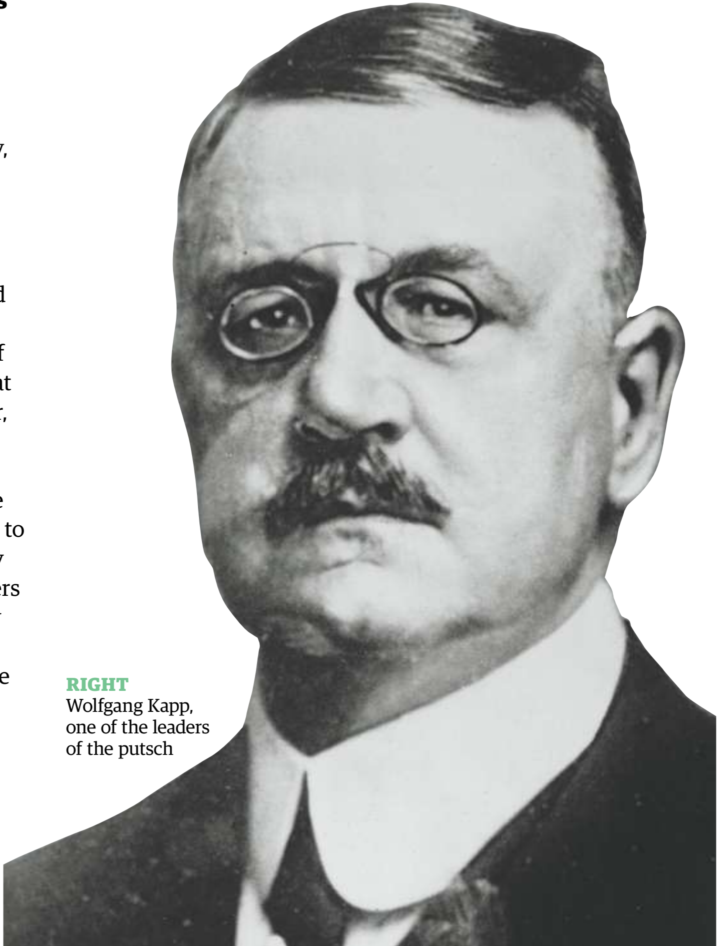
It’s hard to see the putsch succeeding. It only could have succeeded if the army had fully thrown its weight behind it. Had that happened it might have succeeded, but what would the Allies have done? Just two years later, France and Belgium occupied the Rhineland because they said Germany was not fulfilling its reparations obligations and they stayed for 10 years or so. It was Hitler who sent in the army to reoccupy the Rhineland, which was neutral territory under the Versailles Treaty. The Western Allies did nothing. In the 1920s, however, things could have been different and it is conceivable that a successful putsch could have led to an Allied intervention.

**If the putsch had succeeded, what could some of the immediate effects have been?**

Let’s say that maybe the Allies would not have intervened. What we would have ended up with is an authoritarian military dictatorship in Germany: nasty, anti-democratic, anti-socialist, anti-Semitic – but not Nazi. On the scale of things, maybe not quite as bad as what came after 1933. But, like many other places in Europe in the 1920s and 1930s, it would’ve definitely been on the authoritarian side. This is the era of Salazar’s Portugal, Spain after the defeat of the republic in the Spanish Civil War, Hungary, and Poland by the 1930s. To all of these countries Germany would have been a pioneer, so to speak, in the slide from post-World War I democracy to authoritarianism. That’s the most likely outcome. For the many, many supporters of the republic it would have been very tough going. Workers would have lost the eight-hour day and they would have lost their trade unions. The vibrant Weimar culture that we still recognise? It would never have come to pass. The authoritarian government would have shut down the public health clinics. The gay scene in Berlin, and partly Munich, which attracted LGBT(+) people from all over western central Europe, would have gone. The artistic experimentations of the Bauhaus? None of that would have been possible under a severe military authoritarian dictatorship.

**Could we still have had war?**

The Nazis were, of course, completely radical and expansionist, and in the 1930s they faced some opposition and hesitations from the old officers. By 1938, Hitler had basically gotten rid of all those kinds of officers who were more cautious than he was. So it’s possible. Two things could have happened. One is that the old elites would have been adamant about overthrowing the Versailles peace treaty and, as I mentioned earlier, that could have caused an intervention on the Allied side. By the 1930s, nobody in France and Britain was looking for another war because of the human cost and the resource cost. But let’s say by 1928 Germany looks like it’s about to rip up the Versailles Treaty. Would the Allies have gone to war then? Probably not. So it’s possible we would have gone through the 1920s and 30s and 40s with a dreary, authoritarian, dictatorial system in Germany, but maybe not a world war, and certainly not a war on the scale that was experienced.



**RIGHT**
Wolfgang Kapp, one of the leaders of the putsch

# THE POSSIBILITY

**1919-33**

## WEIMAR CULTURE

Following World War I and the formation of the Weimar Republic, Germany experienced new artistic, cultural and social freedoms. Film became an important part of 1920s Germany, in particular works such as *The Cabinet of Dr Caligari* (1920) and Fritz Lang’s *Metropolis* (1927) – perfect representatives of the Expressionist movement. There was also the Bauhaus, closely linked and creating a new modernist approach to art. Meanwhile in the capital Berlin, new sexual freedoms could be experienced in its numerous gay bars, and all women over the age of 20 were given the right to vote. Had the putsch succeeded, all this would have been lost.

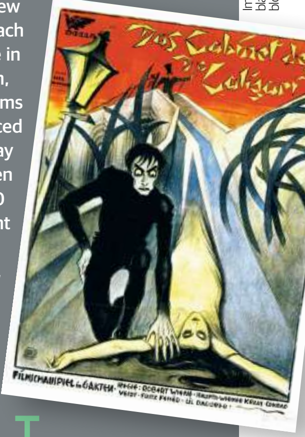

Das Cabinet des Dr. Caligari

Image source: wiki/ blackholereviews. blogspot.com

**1920-23**

## ECONOMIC CRISIS

The years 1920-23 proved to be particularly harsh for the German people as the country was hit by hyperinflation. A successful putsch would likely have made the economic situation even worse.

**1933**

## THE RISE OF HITLER

On 30 January 1933 Adolf Hitler became Chancellor of Germany. Following President Hindenburg’s death he would become supreme ruler of the country, establishing a totalitarian dictatorship that would be responsible for World War II and millions of deaths. Had the Kapp Putsch succeeded it’s unlikely Hitler would have risen to power, altering the course of world history.

Image source: wiki/ Bundesarchiv, Bild 102-12922 / CC-BY-SA 3.0

Through History

# TREASURES OF THE THAMES

## Two mudlarks, searching for lost artefacts at low tide, share their fascinating finds with us

**Captions by Nick Stevens and Jason Sandy**

Mudlarks Jason Sandy and Nick Stevens have combined their writing and photography skills to produce *Thames Mudlarking: Searching For London's Lost Treasures*. For many years amateur archaeologists, called mudlarks, have been searching the foreshores of the River Thames in London, hunting for historical artefacts at low tide. With contributions from more than 50 mudlarks and accompanied by over 160 colour photographs, this intriguing book tells the story of London using some of these amazing discoveries.

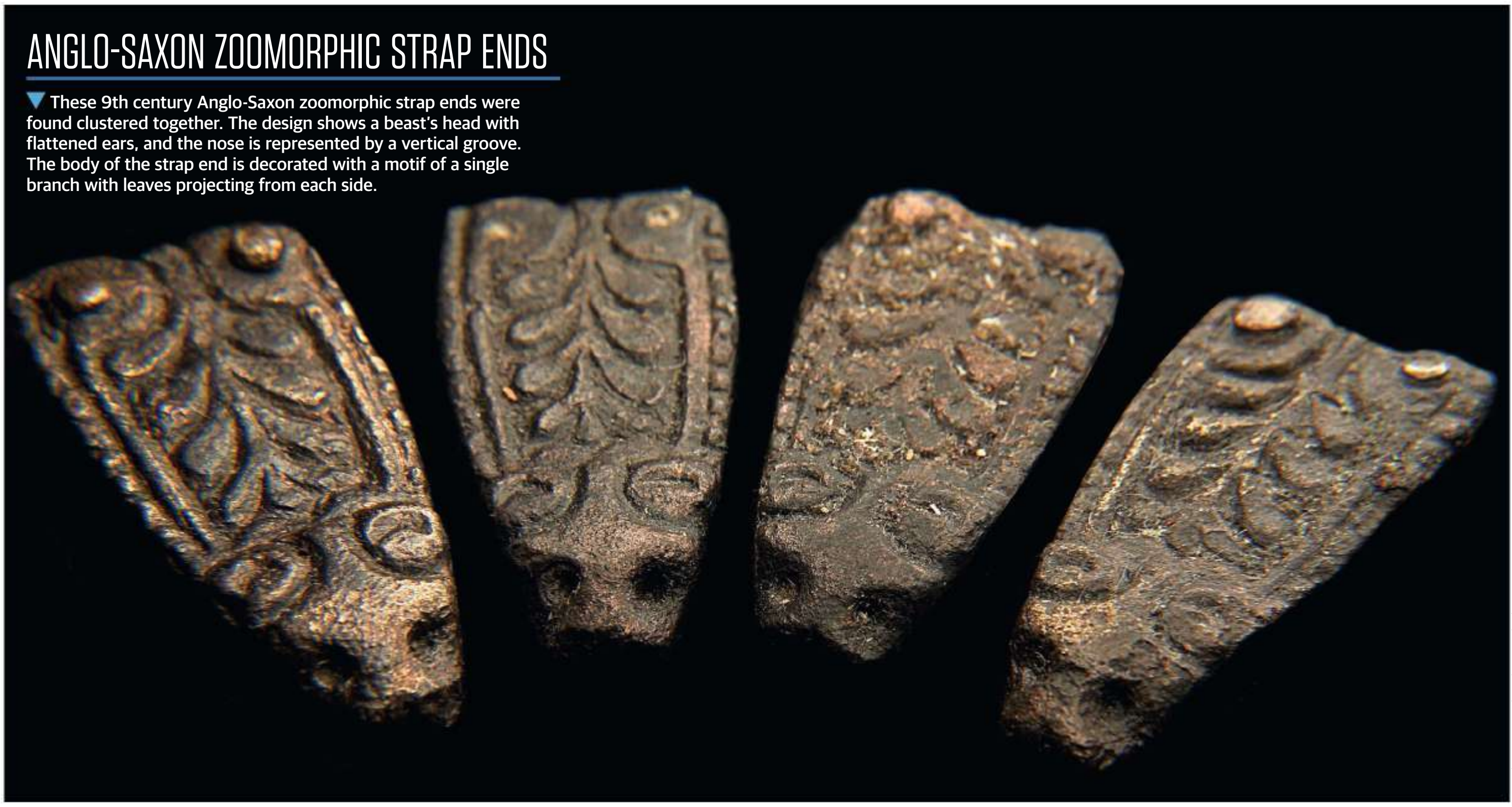
Written chronologically, the book begins with prehistory and takes us on an epic journey through time. It features historically significant masterpieces such as the Battersea Shield and Waterloo Helmet, and personal items such as fashion accessories, toys and religious artefacts. Each object tells a unique story and offers us a tantalising glimpse into the past. This book brings them back to life, uncovering new and important information about London's history.

Jason is an architect and writer, and Nick is a professional photographer. Both have been mudlarking for many years and are members of The Society of Thames Mudlarks.

Main image: © Nick Stevens

## ANGLO-SAXON ZOOMORPHIC STRAP ENDS

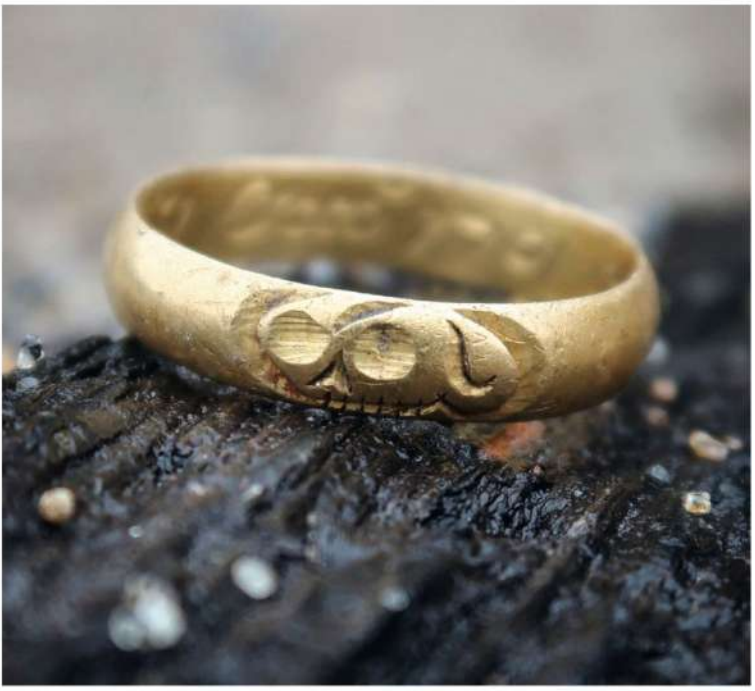
▼ These 9th century Anglo-Saxon zoomorphic strap ends were found clustered together. The design shows a beast's head with flattened ears, and the nose is represented by a vertical groove. The body of the strap end is decorated with a motif of a single branch with leaves projecting from each side.



© Nick Stevens, Finder: John Higginbotham

## BELLARMINE JUG

▶ Occasionally mudlarks find fragments of strange bearded faces, like this one on a 16th century Bellarmine jug fragment. These jugs were a type of decorated salt-glazed pottery produced primarily in Frechen and Cologne in Germany and imported into Britain.



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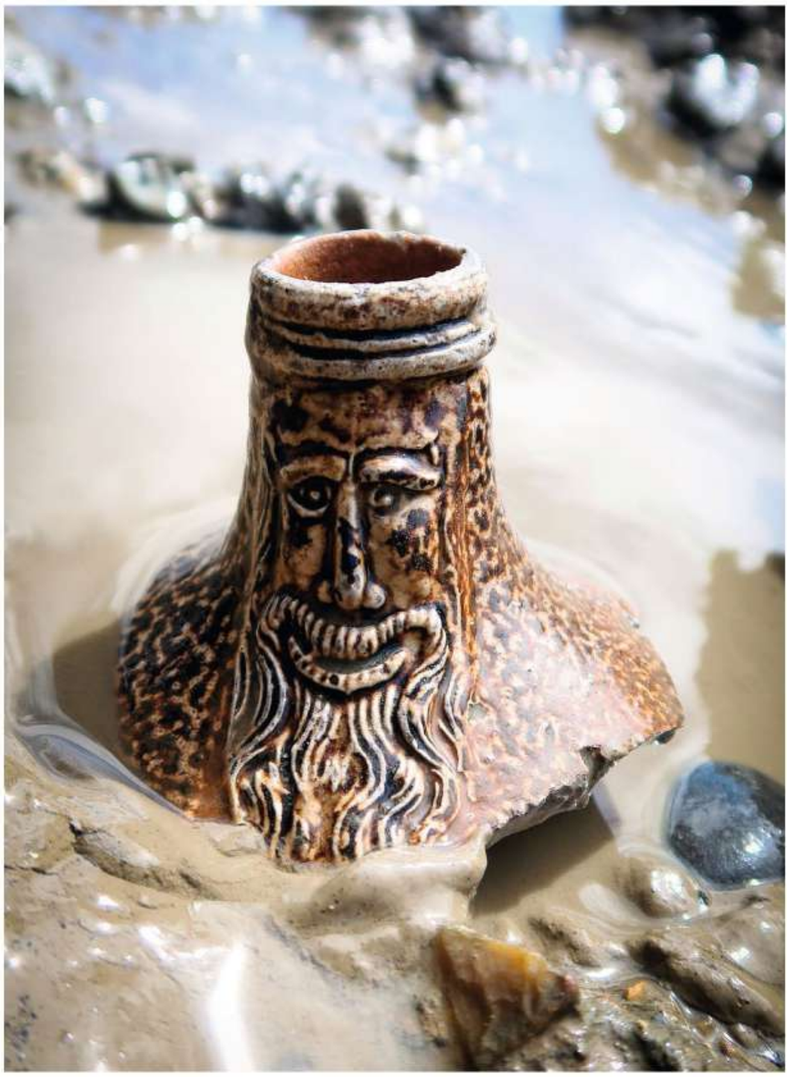
## MOMENTO MORI RING

▲ This 18th century momento mori is a type of ring that was usually given out at funerals to commemorate the deceased person. Often with initials and dates inscribed on the inside, their morbid style was very popular.



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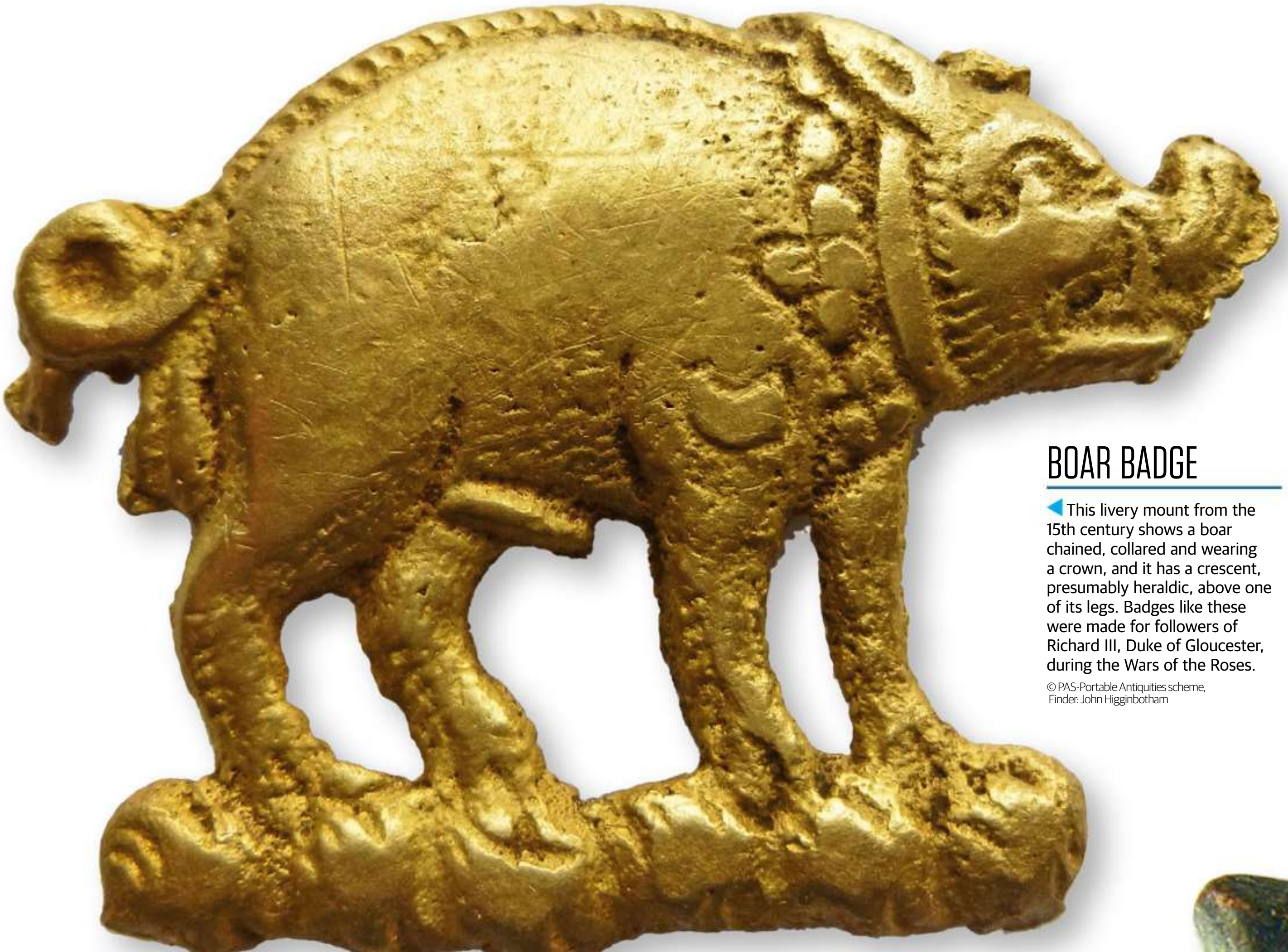
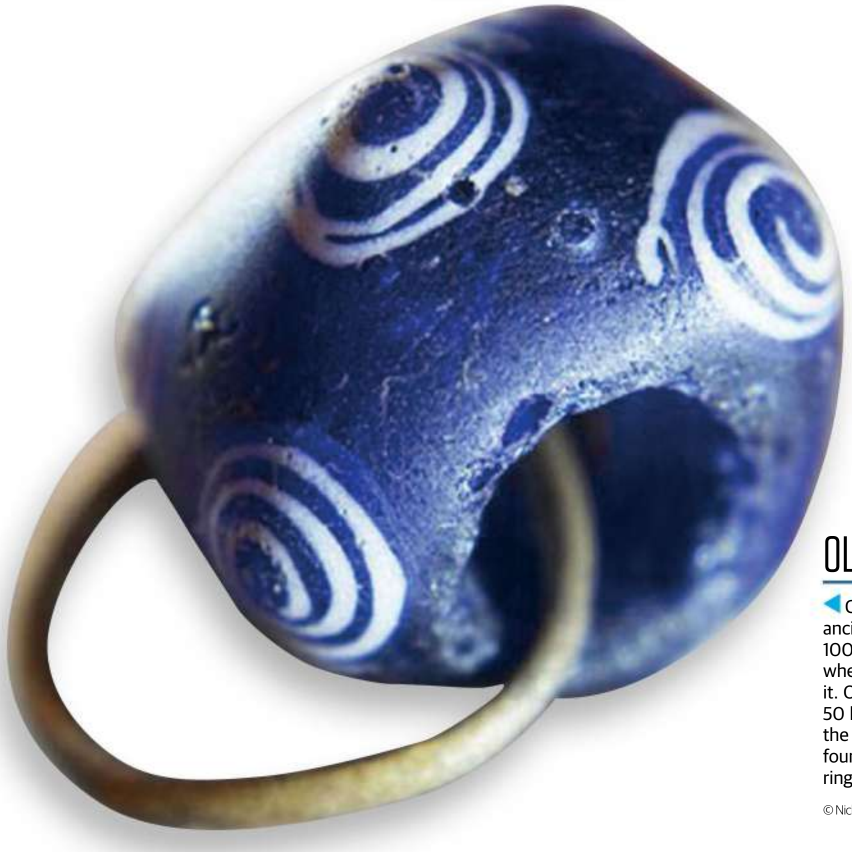


## BOAR BADGE

This livery mount from the 15th century shows a boar chained, collared and wearing a crown, and it has a crescent, presumably heraldic, above one of its legs. Badges like these were made for followers of Richard III, Duke of Gloucester, during the Wars of the Roses.

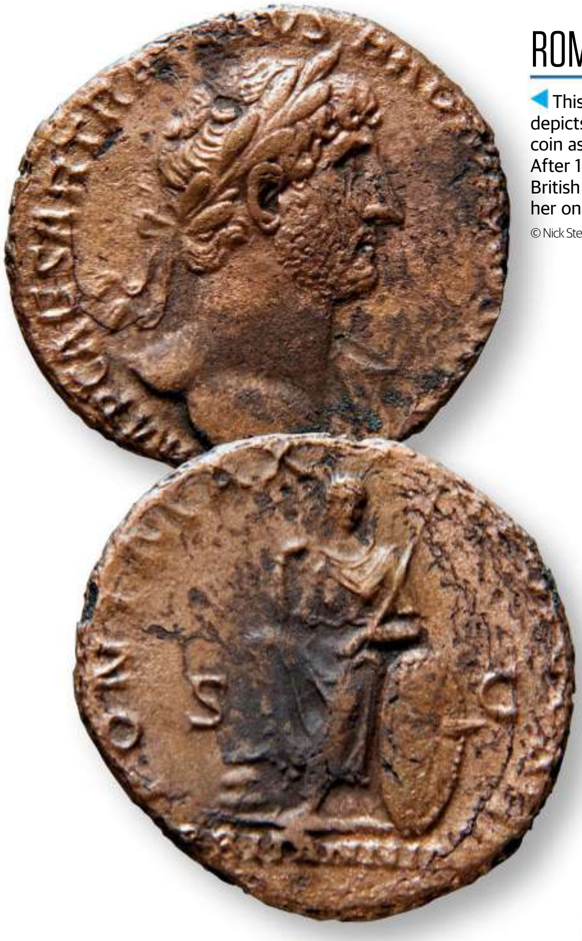
© PAS-Portable Antiquities scheme, Finder: John Higginbotham



## OLDBURY BEAD

Considered to be an ancient 'eye' bead (c.800-100 BCE), it glows brightly when light passes through it. Out of approximately 50 known examples this is the only one to have been found attached to a metal ring, making it a unique find.

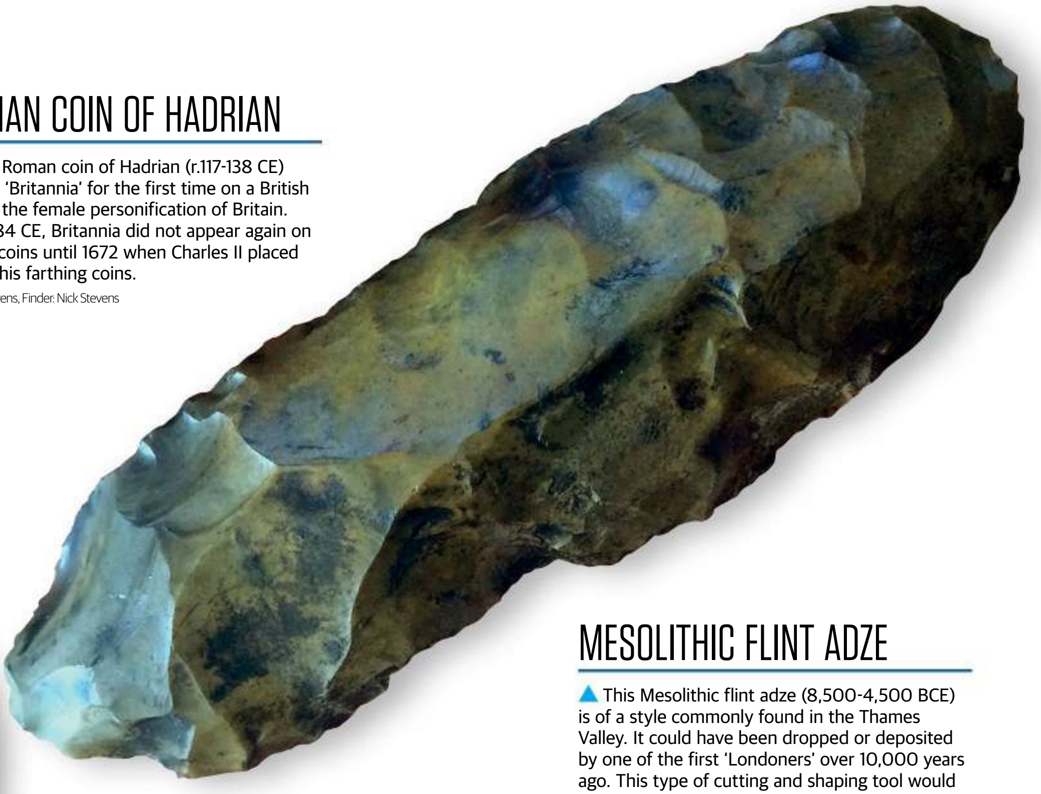
© Nick Stevens, Finder: John Higginbotham



## ROMAN COIN OF HADRIAN

◀ This Roman coin of Hadrian (r.117-138 CE) depicts 'Britannia' for the first time on a British coin as the female personification of Britain. After 184 CE, Britannia did not appear again on British coins until 1672 when Charles II placed her on his farthing coins.

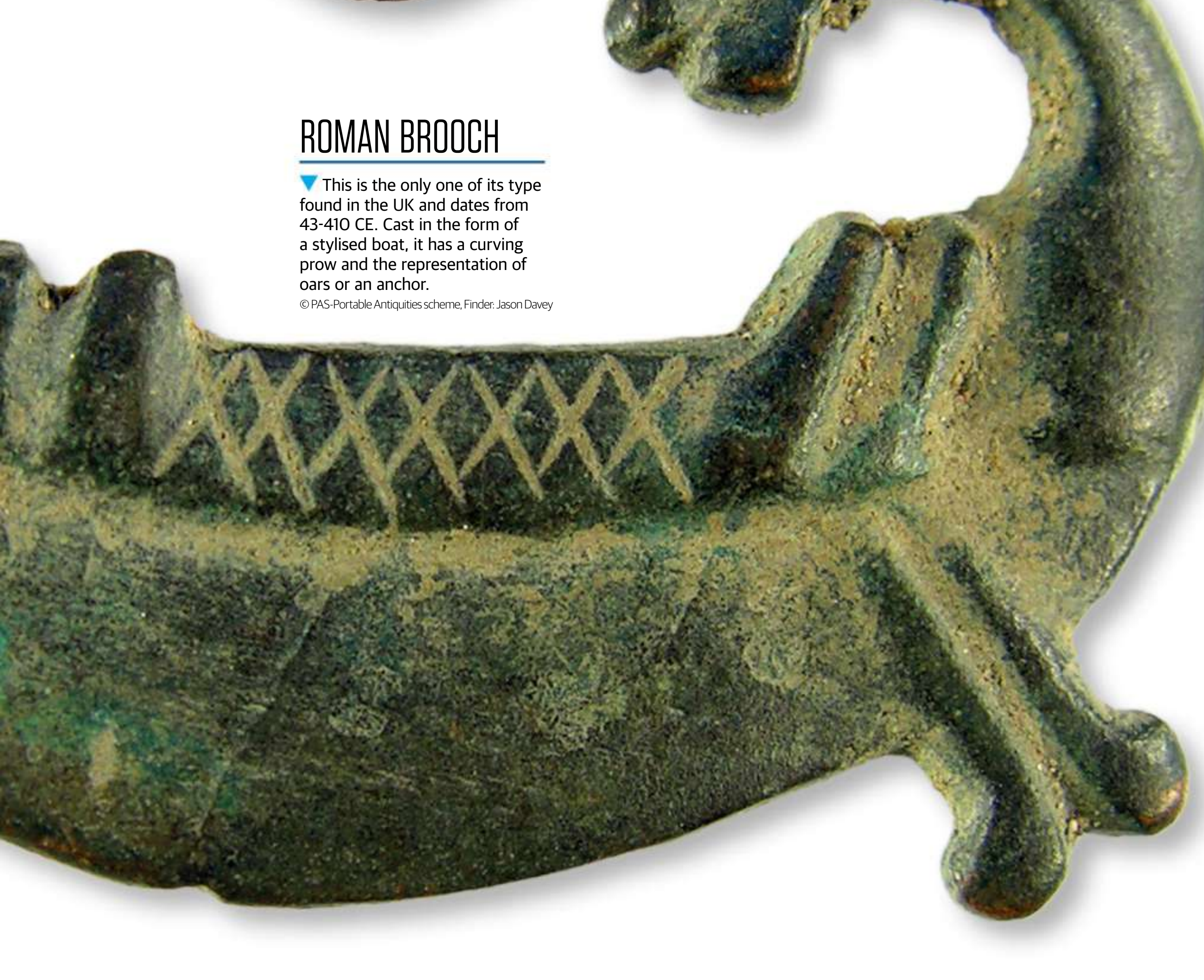
© Nick Stevens, Finder: Nick Stevens



## MESOLITHIC FLINT ADZE

▲ This Mesolithic flint adze (8,500-4,500 BCE) is of a style commonly found in the Thames Valley. It could have been dropped or deposited by one of the first 'Londoners' over 10,000 years ago. This type of cutting and shaping tool would have been attached to a handle of bone or wood.

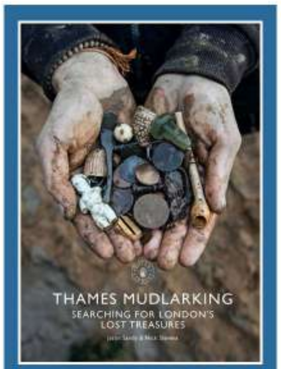
© Nick Stevens, Finder: Nick Stevens



## ROMAN BROOCH

▼ This is the only one of its type found in the UK and dates from 43-410 CE. Cast in the form of a stylised boat, it has a curving prow and the representation of oars or an anchor.

© PAS-Portable Antiquities scheme, Finder: Jason Davey



THAMES MUDLARKING
SEARCHING FOR LONDON'S LOST TREASURES

## Thames Mudlarking: Searching For London's Lost Treasures

by Nick Stevens & Jason Sandy is out on 18 February 2021 priced £9.99

# REVIEWS

The books, TV shows and films causing a stir in the history world this month

Image source: Witchfinder Publicity

## PERSIAN LESSONS

A finely acted Holocaust film that suffers from its implausible storyline

**Director:** Vadim Perelman **Cast:** Nahuel Pérez Biscayart, Lars Eidinger, Jonas Nay **Released:** 29 January 2021

Imagine that you're a prisoner being transported to a Nazi concentration camp in 1942. A difficult and frightening situation to put it mildly, but then consider that in order to survive your only available option is to masquerade… as an Iranian. These are the circumstances pitched as being based on true events that drive the story of this new Holocaust film. A Belarussian production directed by Ukrainian filmmaker Vadim Perelman, *Persian Lessons* follows the struggles of Belgian Jew Gilles (Nahuel Pérez Biscayart) as he narrowly avoids death. Over the course of the film he is forced to teach Farsi to the camp commandant Koch (Lars Eidinger) – a frustrated chef who dreams of opening a restaurant in Tehran after the war. This already implausible plot then has a twist – Gilles speaks no Farsi and has to invent a whole new language to stay alive.

If this sounds decidedly unpromising then it's worth bearing in mind that *Persian Lessons*, despite its outlandish premise, has been positively received. It was given a Special Gala screening at the 2020 Berlin Film Festival and was also selected as the Belarussian entry for Best International Feature Film at the 93rd Academy Awards. A significant amount of this acclaim largely rests on the movie's two excellent lead performances.

Argentine actor Biscayart skilfully portrays the subtle intelligence needed to hoodwink not just the commandant, but everyone else, that he is indeed Iranian (or Persian as the film states it) while also conveying the constant stress this puts him under. As Koch, German actor Eidinger plays a complicated man who is domineering and occasionally violent but, like Gilles, has potential secrets of his own. Their interplay is a constant source of tension that carries the film for its duration, which is a great credit to their acting skills.

The performances in *Persian Lessons* are in fact all of high quality, but unfortunately they struggle to make up for the film's deficiencies. That said, there are other virtues to be appreciated, such as the use of authentic languages (other than Gilles' 'Farsi') and the relentlessly bleak atmosphere. However, although there were many remarkable tales of survival during the Holocaust, the long-term attempt to successfully pose as a Persian seems improbable. The film claims to be "inspired by a true story" but the supposed reality is never revealed. In fact, the absurdity of Gilles' situation leads to some quietly comedic moments which – given the seriousness of the subject matter – seems almost inappropriate. Black humour certainly existed in the concentration camps but on this occasion it too often sits uncomfortably.

At their best, Holocaust movies speak to both the worst of human behaviour and the best of the human spirit. Films like *Schindler's List* and *The Pianist* retain their power because they are emphatically based on the stories of historical figures who were lucky enough to survive. When the Holocaust begins to be depicted in a fictional or semi-fictional way, its haunting warning of man's inhumanity runs the risk of being diminished because invented plots obscure the reality. Out of all historical movie genres, it is the Holocaust that must often be treated with the greatest care. *Persian Lessons* is finely acted and its intentions are good but it is likely to divide opinion on how the Holocaust should be depicted. ***TG***

★★★☆☆

# COWRIES TO CRYPTO

## Having a little fun with finance

**Author** Jame DiBiasio **Publisher** Oanda **Price** £19.99 **Released** Out now

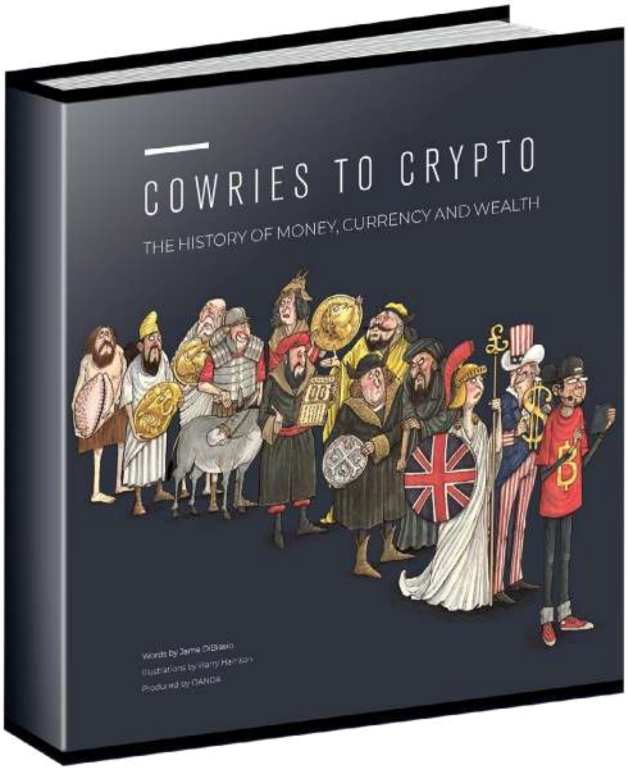
This highly accessible and often rather entertaining exploration of the evolution of money and the systems that exist around it is an excellent introduction to the subject. Taking you on a journey from the earliest forms of currency, such as cowrie shells used in China, all the way through to Bitcoin and other digital exchange, you really couldn't ask for something more comprehensive - and all this in about 160 pages.

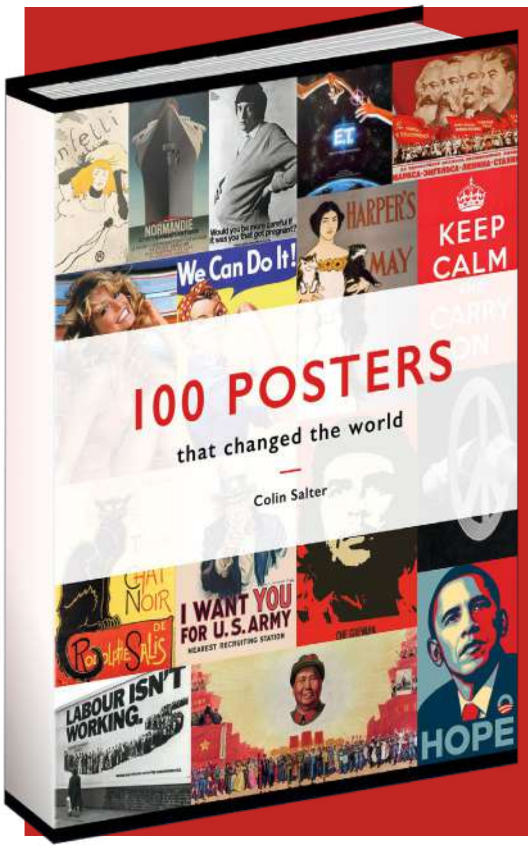
DiBiasio is a financial journalist of some acclaim and here he teams up with illustrator Harry Harrison, whose satirical cartoons have featured regularly in the *South China Morning Post* as well as *Time* magazine and *The Guardian*. DiBiasio's approachable prose combined with Harrison's entertaining imagery helps the often rather complex and abstract world of money become much more digestible.

Some particularly interesting ideas this book explores is how money became of use in the first place, why middlemen emerged as an important arbiter of value, and how kings took control of money and imbued it with their authority as a means of maintaining and also spreading their control. There's also a fascinating exploration of the way Buddhism, Christianity and Islam each contributed to the way money was understood by people, not least by imbuing people with a sense of a future that was worth saving resources and preparing for.

*Cowries To Crypto* digs into some complex topics but does so with a lightness of touch that is commendable. If you want to understand the financial systems that run beneath and through all of history, this is a nice way to get started. ***JG***

★★★★☆


COWRIES TO CRYPTO
THE HISTORY OF MONEY, CURRENCY AND WEALTH
Words by Jame DiBiasio
Illustrations by Harry Harrison
Produced by OANDA



# 100 POSTERS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

## A whistle-stop tour of some iconic images

**Author** Colin Salter **Publisher** Pavilion Books **Price** £14.99 **Released** Out now

From wartime drum-beating to cinematic classics, the wanted posters of the Old West to political sloganeering or even the luxury liners of the Golden Age, posters have created some of the most enduring images and myths of our times. *100 Posters That Changed The World* sets out to identify 100 of the most influential or memorable, from the 17th century to today. It's quite an undertaking, but this book by Colin Salter proves to be an impressive effort to narrow down an impossibly large and diverse field.

This lavishly illustrated book has a lot of ground to cover and does so in single-page essays that cover a general topic, such as women's suffrage or military propaganda. Because the book casts its net so wide, it's unavoidable that the accompanying text is really more of an introduction than a deep dive, but the beautifully reproduced posters will certainly whet your appetite to know more. This journey through images that can inspire, shock or just leave the viewer laughing is never less than fascinating.

*100 Posters That Changed The World* is a beautifully produced volume that will find a very broad readership, from those with an interest in graphic design to readers who are simply looking for something to dip into for a quick primer. This useful introduction to the power of posters should appeal to a variety of ages, and although experts on the subjects covered will likely find little that they don't already know, for those with a more casual interest there is much to enjoy. ***CC***

★★★★☆

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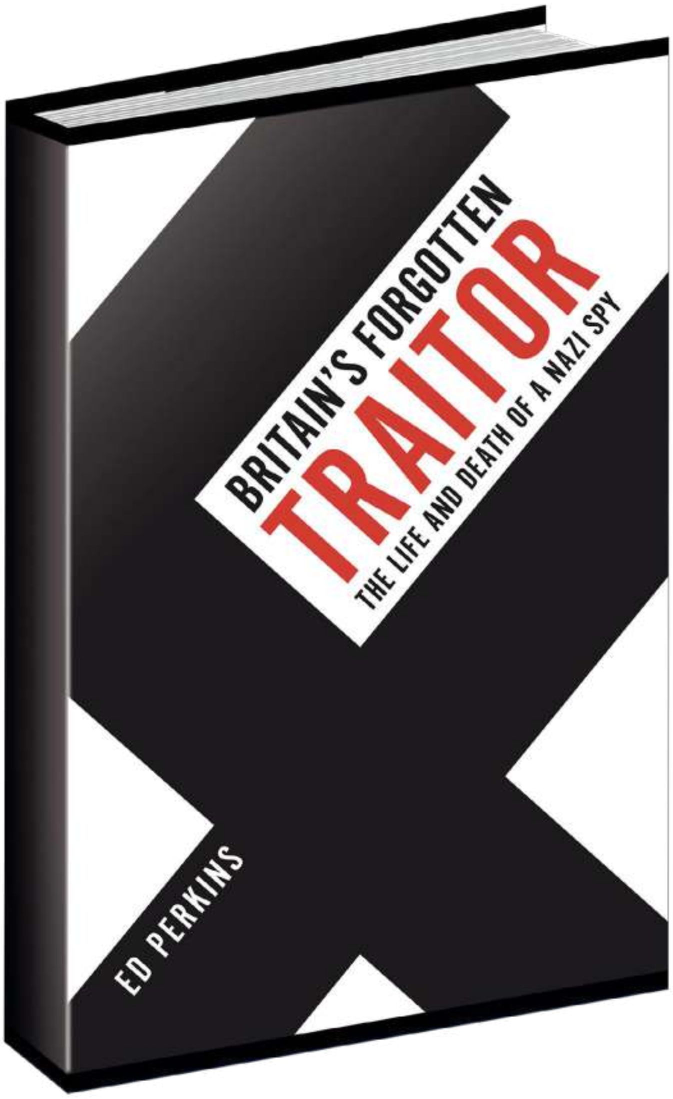
**Author** Giles Tremlett
**Price** £30 **Publisher** Bloomsbury

It is no exaggeration to say that historical as well as fictional narratives about the Spanish Civil War number in the tens of thousands. Just when we thought the final word had been written on this heart-breaking event, along comes Giles Tremlett with a blockbuster tale of the thousands of volunteers, from as far afield as Ethiopia and Pakistan, who journeyed to Spain to prevent a fascist takeover.

# BRITAIN'S FORGOTTEN TRAITOR

A new biography from Amberley publishing lays bare the life of a forgotten Nazi spy

**Author** Ed Perkins **Publisher** Amberley **Price** £20 **Released** 15 February 2021



> "*Britain's Forgotten Traitor* works as both a biography and gripping spy novel"

"He is evidently a shrewd customer and lacks neither guile nor cunning" was how Lieutenant Burke, a security man at Poole Quay, chose to describe Oswald John Job – the titular traitor in Ed Perkins' new biography. During his introduction, Perkins loosely blames his initial interest in Job on meeting renowned espionage author John Le Carré. We say loosely, because he attributes to Le Carré only his fascination with the psychology and motivation of a spy. It's an intriguing subject, one which clearly interested Le Carré himself, whose books obsess over the twin themes of identity and betrayal. However, we finished Perkins' work wondering if he had taken rather more than that from the master of espionage fiction as *Britain's Forgotten Traitor* works both as a biography and also as a gripping spy novel.

As the title suggests, the majority of the book deals with Job's time as a supposed spy and the circumstances surrounding both this and his eventual downfall. Yet we begin with Job as a boy and a potted history of his pre-war years. Perkins is brutally honest in his portrayal of Job, not hiding the man's flaws nor overly condemning him as a villain. For example, early in the book Perkins shares letters from Job, noting the obvious care and consideration towards his brother while highlighting the lack of interest in his own child.

This paints a very clear picture of the kind of man Perkins suspects Job to have been, before suddenly he is imprisoned in Nazi-occupied France. From here we learn of his time in an internment camp and then of his later escape to neutral Spain. Or do we? As the wool is suddenly pulled from over our eyes we realise that what we have just read was in fact Job's own cover story – and maybe not reality. It is from here that we enter into some of the most fascinating parts of the book and the investigation into Job by both the authorities at Poole and MI5, and then the trial and Job's eventual execution.

Perkins goes into incredible detail on almost every matter and the pictures he paints are extremely vivid. He makes sure to incorporate brief biographies of other important individuals within the text too, for example John Amery, the son of Cabinet member Leo Amery and fascist sympathiser. If we had to level one complaint towards the book, it would be that some of these little detours veer quite far from the main road. For example, almost an entire chapter is spent conjuring an atmosphere of wartime Britain. However, thankfully these moments are rare and for the most part the depth and detail that the author goes into is greatly appreciated.

Perkins has written an engaging piece of espionage history covering, as the title suggests, an often forgotten Allied traitor. His style, utilising an almost thriller-writing approach to the story, paints an intriguing mystery and keeps the reader guessing. *Britain's Forgotten Traitor* is certainly one for both fans of espionage and World War II. ***CM***

★★★★☆

# HISTORY VS HOLLYWOOD

## Fact versus fiction on the silver screen

# MANK

**Director:** David Fincher **Starring:** Gary Oldman, Amanda Seyfried, Lily Collins, Charles Dance **Country:** USA **Released:** 2020

A biopic of *Citizen Kane* screenwriter Herman Mankiewicz

D

**VERDICT:** It's fun as a film but flexible with the facts

**01** The film portrays key events in the life of *Citizen Kane* screenwriter Herman Mankiewicz, such as his friendship with newspaper baron William Randolph Hearst. Mankiewicz really was friends with Hearst, who was an initial inspiration for the story.

**02** During the film, it is revealed that Mankiewicz financially sponsored an entire village to flee Nazi Germany. In reality this didn't actually happen, but the screenwriter did help sponsor a lot of refugees and assist in them finding work.

**03** At one point, a series of staged newsreels are produced during an election campaign. This really occurred and three fake newsreels were produced, however in the film the director is a fictional character who feels intense guilt for his part in their production.

**04** The film suggests Orson Welles wrote virtually none of the *Citizen Kane* screenplay, an argument first proposed by Pauline Kael in her 1971 article *Raising Kane*. Mankiewicz did indeed write the screenplay but didn't want to receive credit, yet he later changed his mind.

**05** However, while Mankiewicz provided the blueprint, subsequent screenplay drafts show Welles had a big role in changing the story into the masterpiece we know today. This included creating entirely new scenes and reworking long pieces of dialogue.

Main image: © Alamy
5x inset image source: © Netflix

# LIMBURGSE VLAAI

## Ingredients

**For the dough**
- 300g flour (plus extra for the pie tin)
- 150ml milk, lukewarm
- 85g sugar
- 50g butter, soft (plus extra for greasing)
- 2 tsp active dry yeast
- 1 egg yolk
- A pinch of salt

**For the fruit filling**
- 700g cherries, drained weight
- 350ml cherry juice
- 70g sugar
- 2½ tbsp cornflour
- 2 tbsp caster sugar
- 1 tbsp vanilla extract
- ½ tsp cinnamon
- ½ tsp nutmeg
- 1 lemon, juice and zest
- 1 orange, juice and zest

**For assembly**
- 1 egg yolk, beaten
- 50g sugar

Main image: © Alamy
Inset image © wiki/ Historical Portraits

## A TRADITIONAL SWEET PIE, THE NETHERLANDS, UNKNOWN – PRESENT

The history of Limburgse vlaai is vague, but it's said it can be traced back to Germanic people who baked flatbreads known as 'vladel' and topped them with honey or fruit juice. By the early Middle Ages German monks apparently produced similar bread that spread to the Netherlands and Belgium through trade. As the name suggests, Limburgse vlaai is associated with the Dutch region of Limburg, where it became popular in the 20th century. A pie made with a yeast dough base, fruit filling and a latticed top, Limburgse vlaai was once a special treat for celebrations but today it's eaten throughout the year. There are various possible fillings, but for our recipe we've chosen a traditional cherry version.

## METHOD

**01** Start by making the dough. In a bowl, dissolve the yeast in the lukewarm milk (make sure it's not too hot) and leave it to activate for ten minutes. In a large mixing bowl, sift in the flour and mix in the sugar and salt.

**02** While mixing, gradually add the milk and the egg yolk as the dough comes together. Once the dough forms a ball, add in the softened butter and knead for five minutes. Grease another bowl and put the dough inside, cover and leave it to proof for 30 minutes in a warm place.

**03** Meanwhile, get started on the fruit filling. In a bowl, mix together the sugars and cornflour. In a saucepan, add the cherry juice, vanilla extract and the lemon and orange juice and zest. Add the sugar and cornflour mixture to the saucepan and slowly bring to the boil while stirring.

**04** Once the liquid is boiling, let it gently boil for a minute before adding in the drained cherries. Turn down the heat and let the cherries simmer for around ten minutes while stirring. Remove the saucepan from the heat and allow the fruit mixture to cool completely.

**05** Preheat your oven to 220°C/200°C fan/gas mark 7. Divide the dough into two parts: ⅔ for the vlaai base and ⅓ for the lattice top. Then roll the larger piece of dough into a 3mm-thick circle and lightly grease and flour the pie tin.

**06** Carefully line the pie tin with the dough and pierce the base with a fork – this will allow air to escape and stop the pastry from rising. Place the dough in the fridge and leave to chill for 10 to 15 minutes.

**07** After the dough has chilled, add the cherry filling and ensure that it's spread evenly. Roll out the smaller piece of dough until it's 3mm thick and then cut it into strips that are 7mm thick. Make a woven lattice on top of the vlaai using these strips. Brush the top with the beaten egg yolk and sprinkle with sugar.

**08** Bake the vlaai in the oven for 20 to 25 minutes until it's golden brown. Once it has baked, remove from the oven and allow to cool on a tray. Serve alongside a delicious hot drink of your choice.

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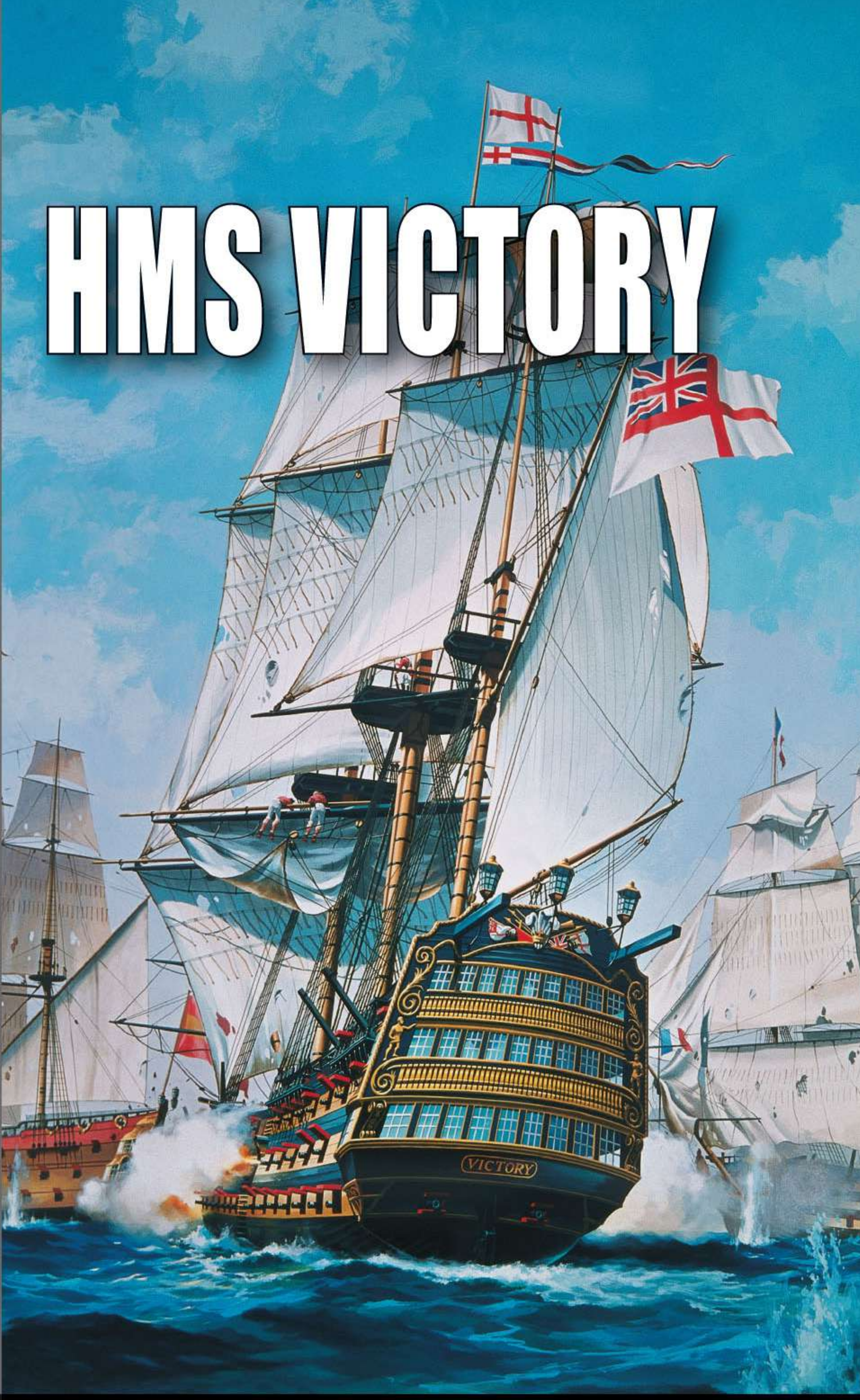

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VINTAGE CLASSICS

**HMS Victory**
**A09252V 1:180**

Mould Tools made in 1965
Pack illustration by Brian Knight, 1965.

Launched an May 7th 1765, HMS Victory gained its fame by becoming Admiral Nelson's flagship during the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805. The victory at this battle ended Napoleon's bid for mastery of the sea, but cost Admiral Nelson his life. She is now the oldest serving Royal Naval ship still in service.

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